ISBN 1591825024
9 781591 825029
50999
EAN

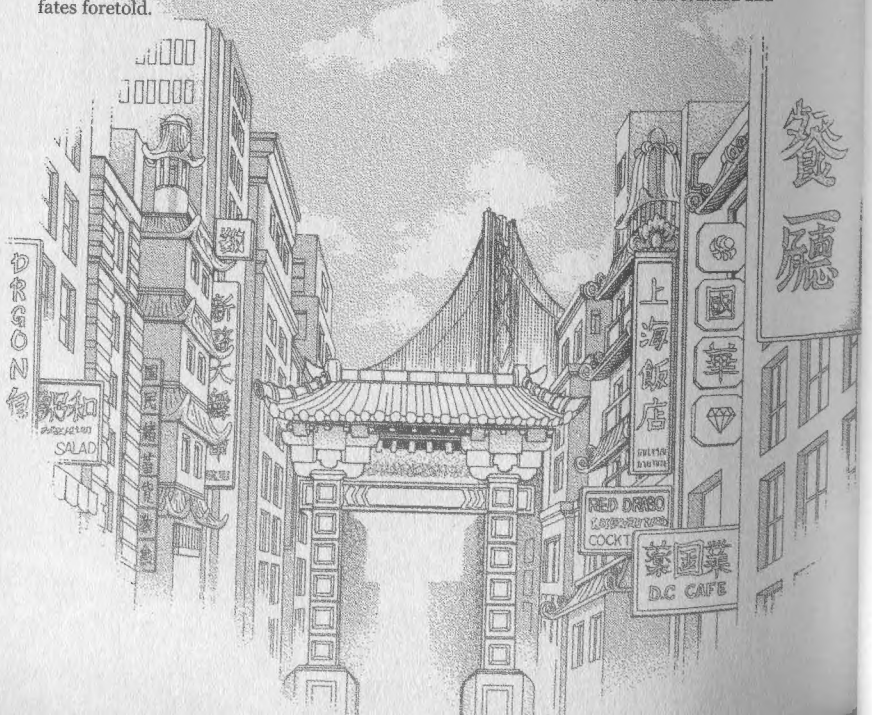
The Story so far

Plumes of mist billow up from the back alleys of Chinatown, home to a variety of merchants of the occult and mystical. And in the crevices of this urban barrio sits a solitary pet shop. Its proprietor, an enigmatic figure known as Count D, beckons through his doors the injured and the scarred, introducing them to creatures wondrous and bizarre.

Our guide through this mysterious landscape is one Detective Leon Orcot who has traced a series of seemingly unrelated crimes to Count D and his Pet Shop of Horrors. A steadfast skeptic, Leon dismisses as trickery the inexplicable events he witnesses. But in his continual attempts to prove D's guilt, this hard-boiled dick inevitably finds himself enraptured by the illusions around him.

The detective, therefore, has formed a strange friendship with his suspect. And as the bond between the two thickens, one must question who has the upper hand. Is the Count playing into the detective's hands, or is it the other way around? Now, the veils of secrecy are slowly being withdrawn...the hidden truths of the detective and the dark secrets of the Count are soon to be revealed.

Prepare yourselves now for four tales of wonder and woe in which lessons are learned and fates foretold.



Translator - Jeremiah Bourque
English Adaptation - James Lucas Jones
Associate Editor - Tim Beedle
Retouch and Lettering - Steven Redd
Cover Layout - Raymond Makowski

Editor - Luis Reyes
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller, Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

A TOKYOPOP® Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Petshop of Horrors Vol. 5

© 1997 MATSURI AKINO All Rights Reserved.
First published in Japan in 1997 by Ohzora Publishing Co. Tokyo, Japan.
English publication rights arranged through Ohzora Comic Creation Co.,Ltd.

English text copyright ©2004 TOKYOPOP Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 1-59182-502-4

First TOKYOPOP printing: March 2004

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

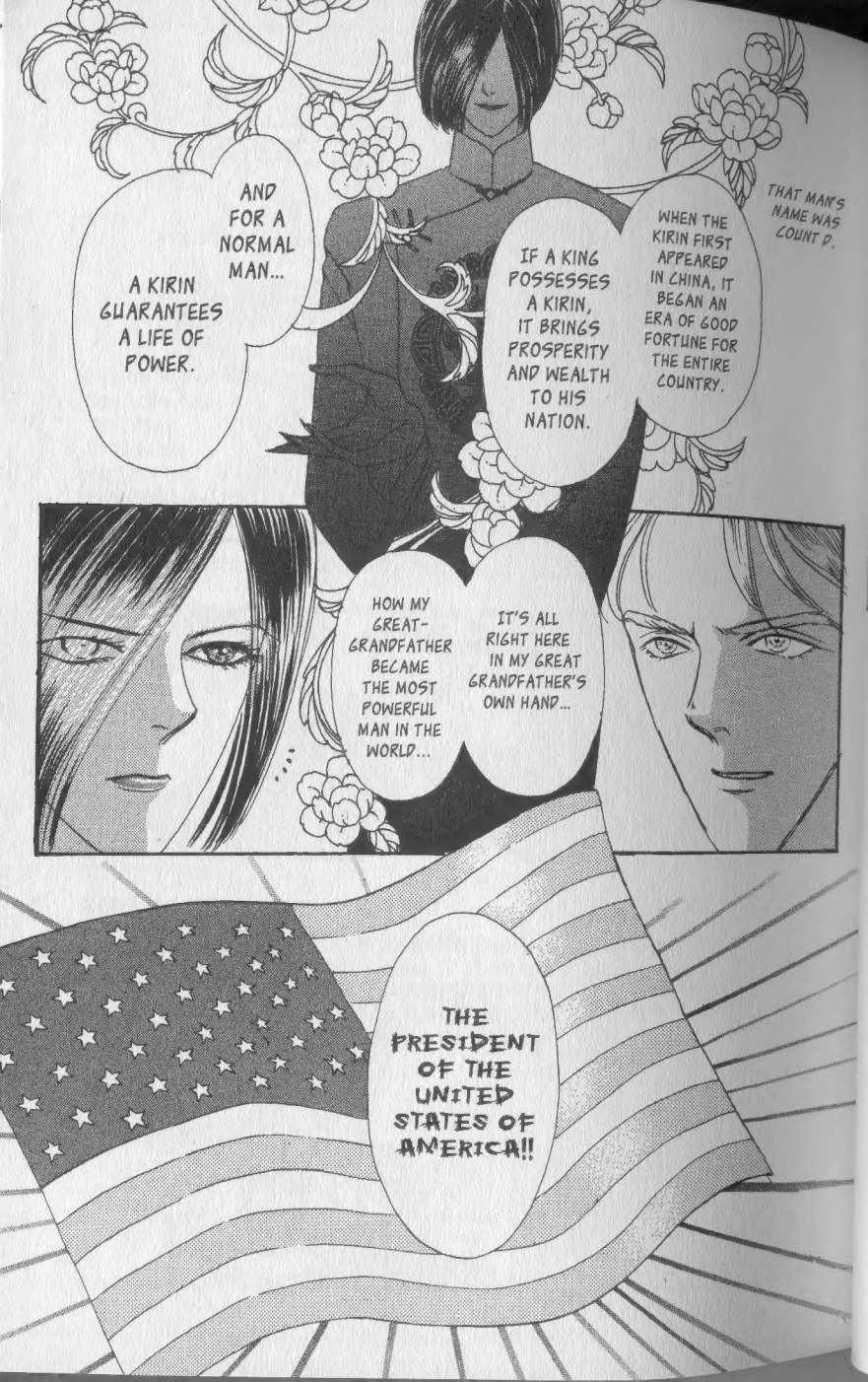
Printed in the USA

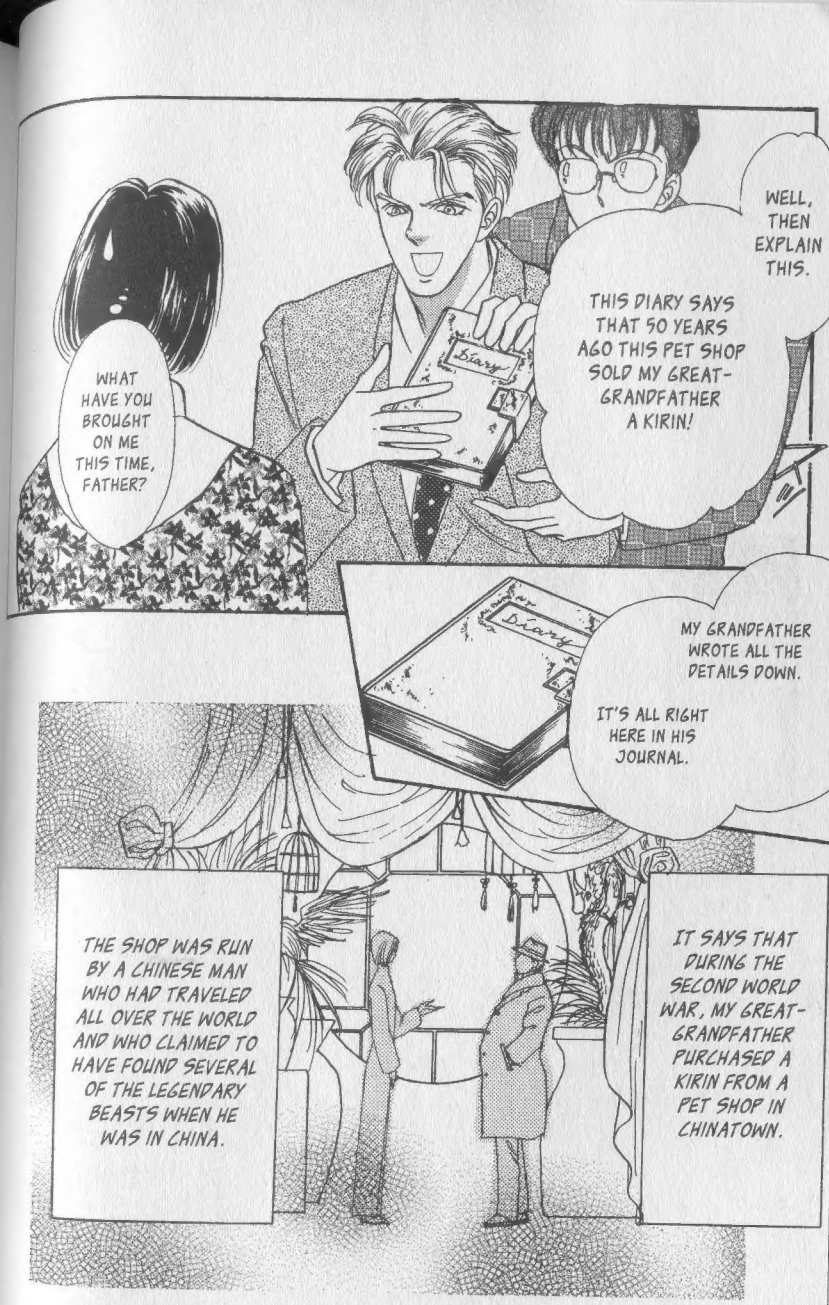
CONTENTS

1 Dual.....7
2 Day Nursery.....58
3 Darling.....109
4 Dance.....159
Pet Catalog.....209

Uh, Roger...
YOU THINK WE WOULD COME HERE IF WE HADN'T DONE OUR HOMEWORK?
THERE'S--
IT'S PART OF THE LOGO FOR THE SUSHI BAR RIGHT NEXT DOOR, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
I-I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT...
THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY I COULD KEEP SUCH A LARGE ANIMAL IN MY TINY SHOP.
IT IS...A BEAST OF LEGEND.
NOTHING BUT A MYTH, A FAIRY TALE.

THERE'S AN OLD CHINESE PROVERB THAT SAYS NO MAN IS FIT TO RULE THE EARTH, UNTIL HE HAS ONCE AGAIN RETURNED TO IT.
ENOUGH MUMBO-JUMBO. CUT TO THE CHASE.
SELL ME A KIRIN.


THAT MAN'S NAME WAS COUNT D.
WHEN THE KIRIN FIRST APPEARED IN CHINA, IT BEGAN AN ERA OF GOOD FORTUNE FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.
IF A KING POSSESSES A KIRIN, IT BRINGS PROSPERITY AND WEALTH TO HIS NATION.
AND FOR A NORMAL MAN...
A KIRIN GUARANTEES A LIFE OF POWER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S OWN HAND...
HOW MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD...
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!


WELL, THEN EXPLAIN THIS.
THIS DIARY SAYS THAT 50 YEARS AGO THIS PET SHOP SOLD MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER A KIRIN!
WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ON ME THIS TIME, FATHER?
Diary
MY GRANDFATHER WROTE ALL THE DETAILS DOWN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN HIS JOURNAL.
THE SHOP WAS RUN BY A CHINESE MAN WHO HAD TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD AND WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND SEVERAL OF THE LEGENDARY BEASTS WHEN HE WAS IN CHINA.
IT SAYS THAT DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER PURCHASED A KIRIN FROM A PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN.

NOT TOO SURPRISING, THOUGH. HIS FAMILY TREE READS LIKE AN ELECTION BALLOT. JUST IMAGINE THE PRESSURE HE MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER GROWING UP.
YEAH, ROGER STANFORD... HE'S ONE OF THE YOUNGEST CONGRESSMEN EVER TO BE ELECTED TO OFFICE.
YOU DO KNOW THAT'S CONGRESSMAN STANFORD, DON'T YOU?
A CONGRESSMAN? HE'S SO YOUNG!
AH, A MAN BRED FOR POLITICS.
MANBOW
HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING THE NEXT ELECTION.
IT'S MORE THAN THE BREEDING. HE'S GOT THE CHARISMA OF A POLITICIAN. PEOPLE HAVE COMPARED HIM TO JFK.
KIRIN?
NO, NO...
HE CAME IN HERE TO BUY BEER?
WHY WOULD A MAN WHO IS ALREADY SO BLESSED BE IN NEED OF A KIRIN?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
THIS GUY'S... A DETECTIVE?!
AH, DETECTIVE ORCOT!
HEY, WHAT WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT ISN'T ILLEGAL HERE. IT'S NOT EVEN UNETHICAL. WE'RE JUST BUYING A PET!
PLEASE, I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
YOUR MONEY IS NO GOOD HERE. WHAT YOU REQUEST IS TOO PRECIOUS A THING TO BE SOLD.
I'll remember this!
YEAH...
C'MON, ROGER. WE'D BETTER BE GOING.
I HAVE INFLUENCE IN THIS CITY. IT WOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO HAVE THIS DUMP OF YOURS SHUT DOWN!
BUT THIS ISN'T OVER. YOU HEAR ME?
Hey, I was gonna do that!

ONE CALL FROM ME AND HE'LL BE THE PET TO HIS CELLMATE.
THE NERVE OF THAT COCKY LITTLE FUCKER...
SLOW DOWN, SIR. THIS ISN'T A NORMAL SITUATION. CHINATOWN IS LIKE ITS OWN LITTLE PLANET. AND LET'S FACE IT, WE NEED THE ASIAN VOTE.
DISMISSING ME LIKE THAT! ME! I BET HE WAS JUST TRYING TO DRIVE UP THE PRICE!
IF WE DECLARE WAR ON A FAMILY-OWNED CHINESE BUSINESS, WE'RE CUTTING OUR OWN THROAT.
BESIDES, WE HAVE REAL ISSUES TO DEAL WITH. YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE YOUR STATEMENT ON THIS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE.
I HAVE A DATE.
KELLY, THAT'S THE SORT OF THING I PAY YOU TO DEAL WITH...
AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS SOME QUESTION REGARDING YOUR CAMPAIGN FUNDS.
ROGER, CAN YOU AT LEAST TRY TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY? THE ELECTION'S JUST A MONTH AWAY AND YOUR POLL RATINGS ARE NOSEDIVING.

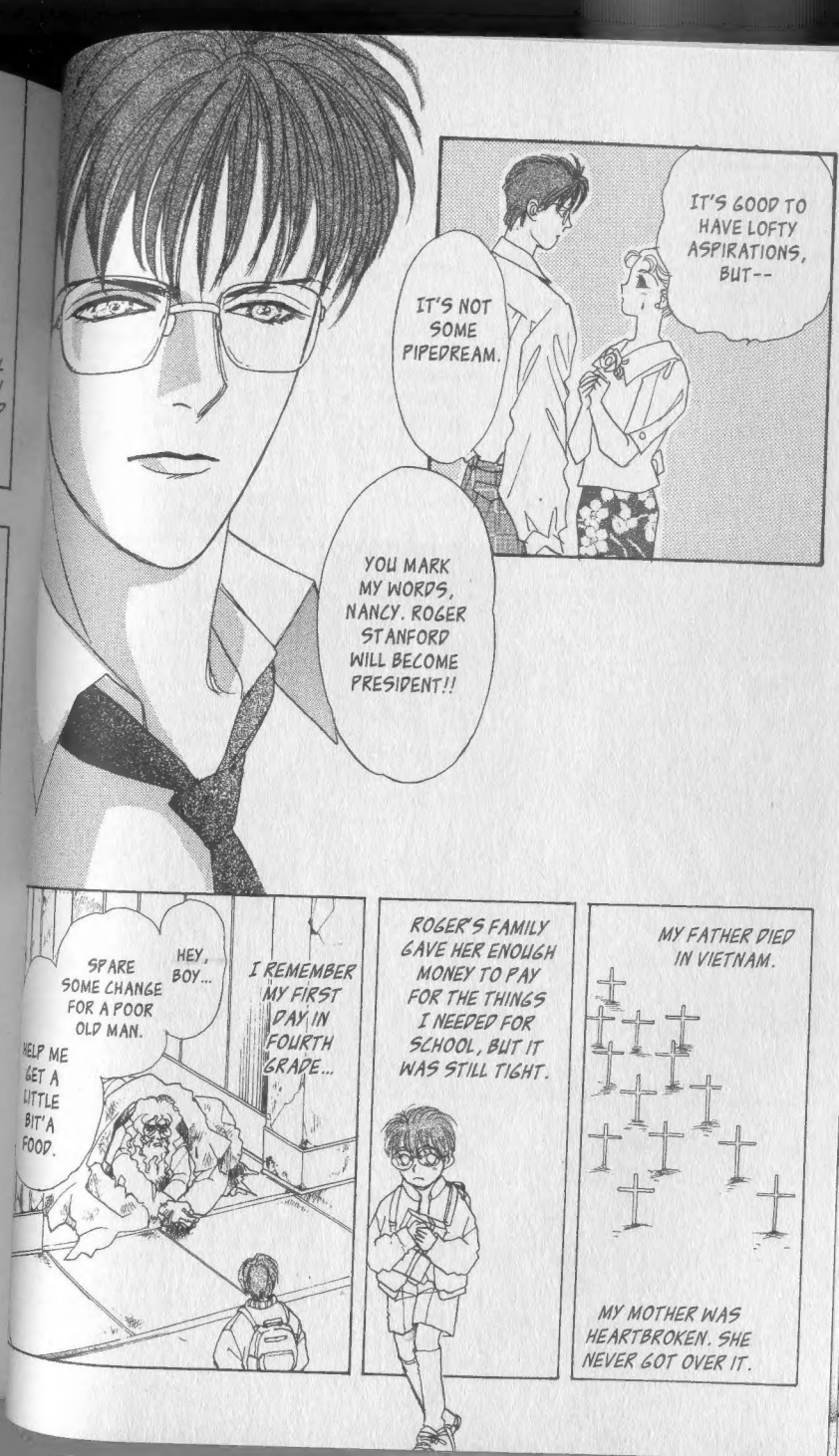
MMM?
SIGH...
THE KIRIN...
...IS A BEAST OF UNBELIEVABLE FEROCITY.
THE CONSEQUENCES OF SETTING LOOSE SUCH AN ANIMAL...
WELL, THERE'S NO WAY A POLITICIAN COULD POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND. ESPECIALLY AN AMERICAN ONE.

N-NANCY!!
AH, WELL... ROGER HAD AN IMPORTANT LUNCH MEETING TO ATTEND.
KELLY? WORKING ALL ALONE?
ROGER?
IT...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
WHO IS IT WITH TODAY, THE AMERICAN POLE DANCERS ASSOCIATION?
OR MAYBE THE HOMELESS HOOKERS FOUNDATION?
.....
NANCY...
...BUT YOU'RE A LOUSY LIAR.
KELLY, YOU MAY BE AN EXCELLENT ASSISTANT...
And an even worse friend...

Destiny? Pfft! The maid found that book.
FINDING THAT DIARY WAS MORE THAN LUCK...IT WAS DESTINY.
THE KIRIN'S GOING TO WIN THIS ELECTION FOR US.
WHICH IS WHY IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE PAY ANOTHER VISIT TO THAT PET SHOP!
THAT'S A HELLUVA LEAP, ROGER. ALL YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER DID WAS USE THE KIRIN AS A CAMPAIGN MASCOT.
AND THEN MANHEIM CROAKS AND DROPS THE PRESIDENCY RIGHT IN HIS LAP. FATE...SEE?
MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER PURCHASED THE KIRIN WHILE HE WAS A SENATOR, AND WITHIN A FEW YEARS HE WAS THE VICE-PRESIDENT.
PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL, ROGER!
I CAN'T LOSE! AT LEAST NOT WHEN WE HAVE THE KIRIN.
C'MON, KELLY. YOU READ THE DIARY! I'M GONNA BE PRESIDENT!

NANCY, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
BUT WHEN ROGER LOOKS AT ME, ALL HE SEES IS SOMEONE ELSE ON HIS PAYROLL
I MISTOOK HIS EGO FOR CONFIDENCE, HIS GENEROSITY FOR LOVE.
YOU'RE TALKING TO ONE OF THE MOTHS, KELLY.
NO, NANCY. I CAN'T...
NO!
I CAN RETURN ROGER'S RING.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE...
YEAH, I'M A MOTH WHO GOT BURNED. BUT WHEN MY SCARS HEALED, I FOUND SOMEONE TRUE. SOMEONE REAL.
.....
PRESIDENCY?!
IT WOULD RUIN HIS POLITICAL CAREER! HIS CHANCE AT THE PRESIDENCY WOULD BE SHOT!
THINK OF WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO ROGER...HIS FIANCÉE AND CHIEF ADVISOR RUNNING OFF TOGETHER.
NANCE, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE HARSH?
REMEMBER COLLEGE?
LECTURE NOTES, REPORTS...YOU DID ALL OF IT WHILE ROGER PARTIED WITH THE OTHER FRAT BOYS.
ROGER CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO SIGN HIS OWN PAPERWORK?!
!!
HE'S A GREAT MAN!
ROGER'S NOT PERFECT, BUT HE'S NOT A MONSTER!
NO, HE'S NOT!
.....
WHEN MY MOTHER WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, HE DIDN'T EVEN CALL.
KELLY... HE'S JUST USING YOU.
HIS FAMILY'S NAME AND CHECKBOOK TAKES CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR HIM.
HE LIVES HIS LIFE LIKE A SPOILED PRINCE.
PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO HIM LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME.
BECAUSE HE'S CHARMING AND EASY TO LIKE.
HE'S THE CENTER OF ATTENTION...

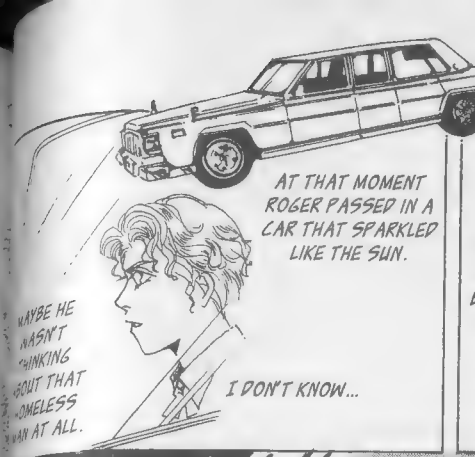
SO I RAN AWAY.
I TOSSED AND TURNED ALL NIGHT, COMPLETELY RACKED WITH GUILT.
THE MAN LEANED IN CLOSER TO ME... I WAS TERRIFIED.
I'D SPENT ALL MY MONEY ON A BOOK. I HAD NOTHING TO GIVE HIM.
HE FROZE TO DEATH IN THE NIGHT.
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE...
I STILL DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY, BUT THE NEXT MORNING I WRAPPED UP SOME LEFTOVER FRUIT AND TOAST FOR HIM.
NO. IT WAS MY FAULT.
OH, KELLY...
THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

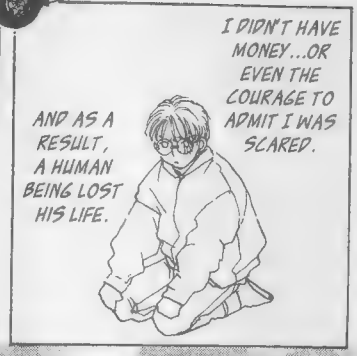

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE LOFTY ASPIRATIONS, BUT--
IT'S NOT SOME PIPEDREAM.
YOU MARK MY WORDS, NANCY. ROGER STANFORD WILL BECOME PRESIDENT!!
HEY, BOY...
SPARE SOME CHANGE FOR A POOR OLD MAN.
HELP ME GET A LITTLE BIT'A FOOD.
I REMEMBER MY FIRST DAY IN FOURTH GRADE...
ROGER'S FAMILY GAVE HER ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE THINGS I NEEDED FOR SCHOOL, BUT IT WAS STILL TIGHT.
MY FATHER DIED IN VIETNAM.
MY MOTHER WAS HEARTBROKEN. SHE NEVER GOT OVER IT.

I...
...NEVER ASKED TO BE FIRST LADY...
I JUST WANTED...
A SIMPLE LIFE...
CHILDREN, A NICE HOUSE...
...MAYBE A DOG...
...AND A HUSBAND WHO COMES HOME EVERY NIGHT...
...TO EAT DINNER WITH HIS FAMILY.

NANCY...
A LIFE WHERE THE RESULTS OF OUR KIDS' SPELLING TESTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST POLLS.
THAT'S THE KIND OF HOME I WANT.

ROGER WILL BE PRESIDENT.
AND YOU, NANCY, WILL BE HIS FIRST LADY.

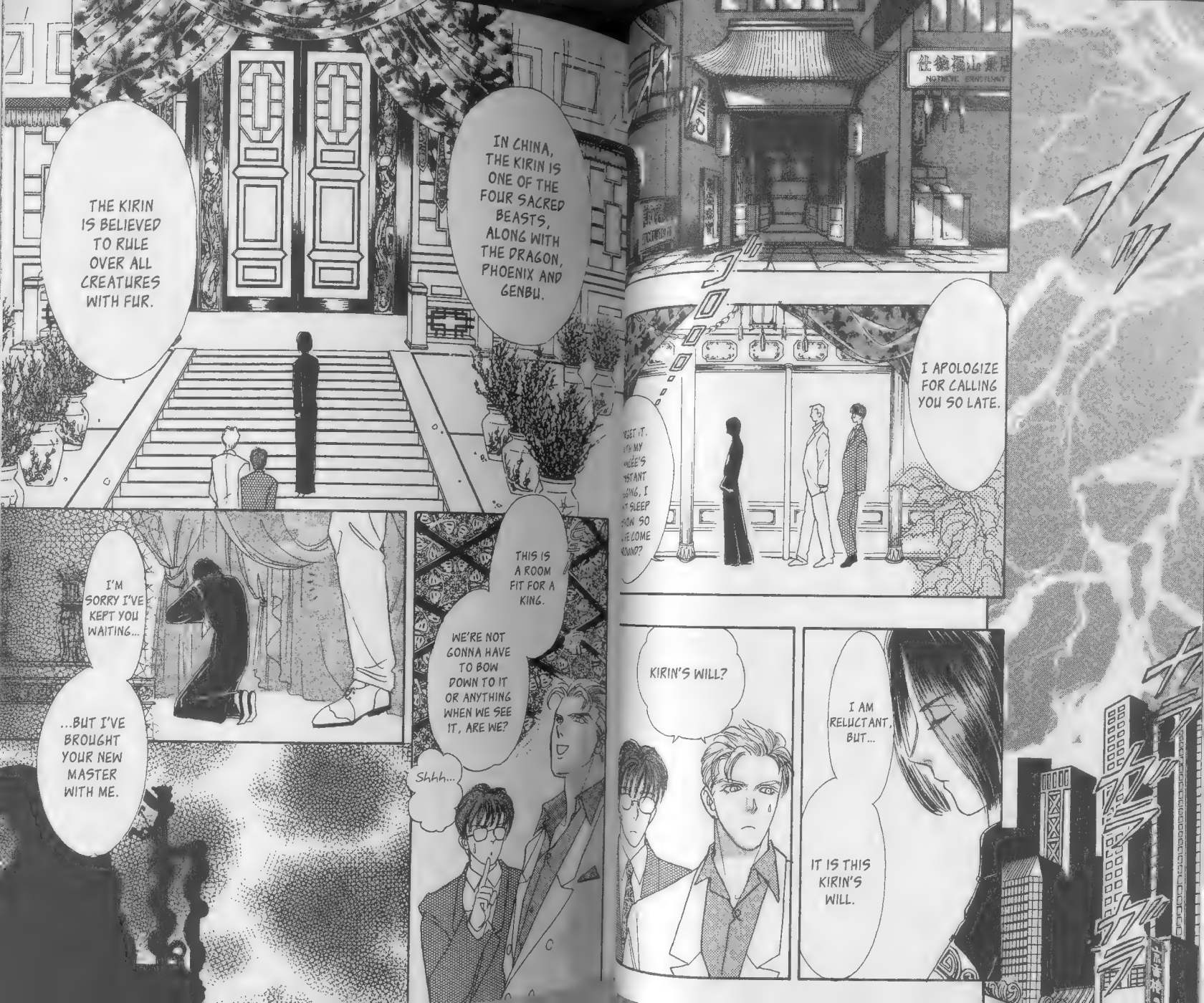

AT THAT MOMENT ROGER PASSED IN A CAR THAT SPARKLED LIKE THE SUN.
MAYBE HE WASN'T THINKING ABOUT THAT HOMELESS MAN AT ALL.
I DON'T KNOW...

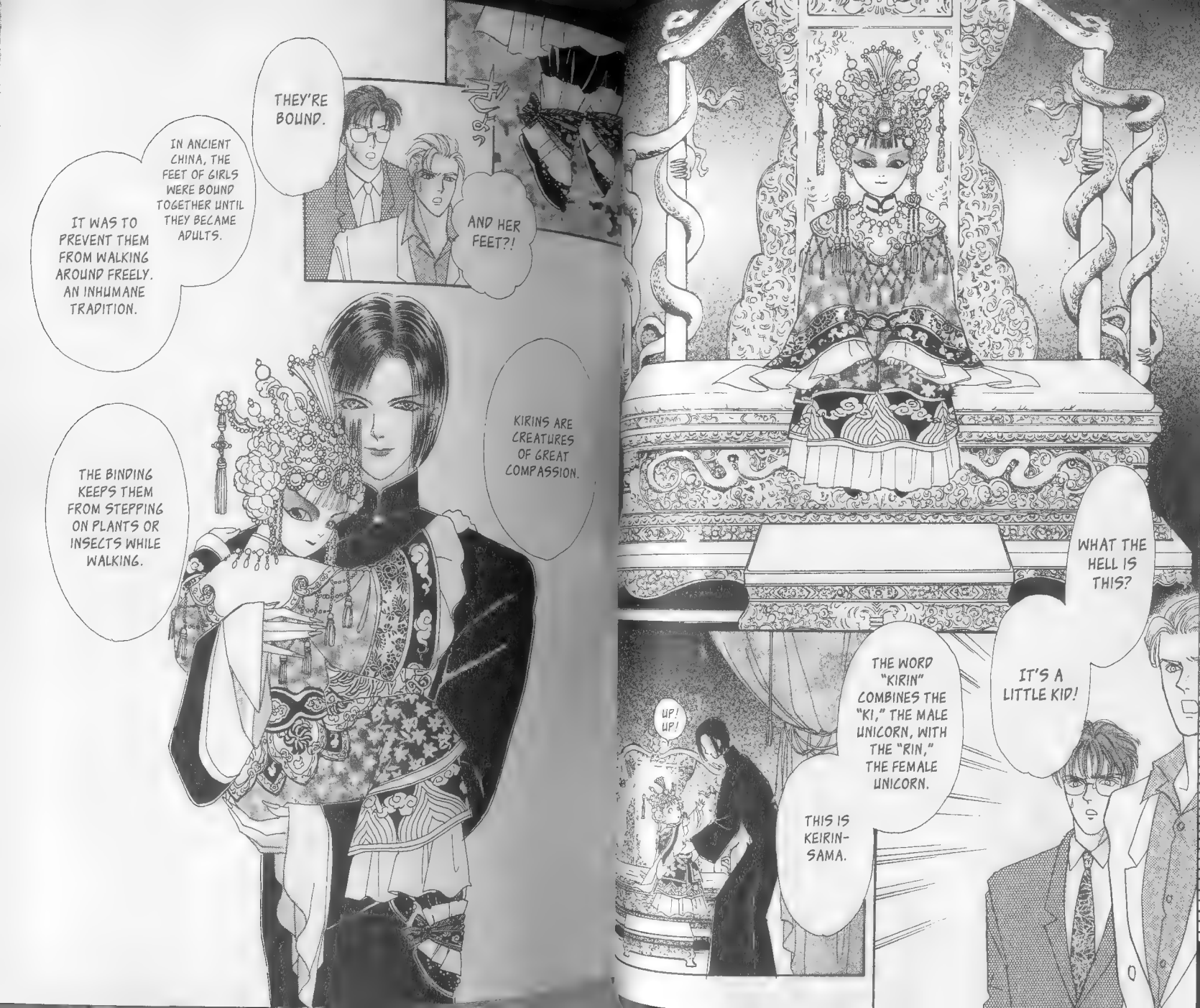

I DIDN'T HAVE MONEY...OR EVEN THE COURAGE TO ADMIT I WAS SCARED.
AND AS A RESULT, A HUMAN BEING LOST HIS LIFE.

I HAVE MANY GOOD QUALITIES.
HE'S NOT USING ME. I'M USING HIM.
BUT I WAS, NANCE, DON'T YOU SEE? ROGER BROUGHT LIGHT TO MY DARKEST MOMENT.
KINDNESS, HONESTY, INTELLIGENCE... AND NOT ONE OF THEM IS NECESSARY FOR ME TO SUCCEED IN POLITICS.
MAYBE HE CAN BUILD A COUNTRY FREE OF POVERTY.
ROGER HAS MONEY, POWER...
MAYBE HE CAN BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT WAR.
I'M LUCKY TO BE HIS ADVISOR...
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, CHARISMA.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE HIS DREAM...MY DREAM.

THIS IS NANCY GRAYSON. ROGER STANFORD'S BRIDE-TO-BE.
HELLO.
More like this.
YOU MUST BE COUNT D. YOU'RE NOT AT ALL WHAT I IMAGINED.
IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MA'AM.
COUNT D
NOW, HONESTLY...
I THOUGHT I MADE MYSELF PERFECTLY--
IN CHINA, YOU HAVE A THING CALLED "SPECIAL CONFIDENCE," DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE QUITE THE STUDENT OF CULTURE.
Here. I brought a gift.
YOU DO SELL DOGS, RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA. I'M HERE TO GET A DOG FOR A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.

IT...IT CAN'T BE...
THAT CAN'T BE WHAT IT WANTS!
THE LADY SHINES BRIGHTER THAN ANY ROYALTY I'VE EVER MET...
HER CHOICE OF PET WAS QUITE APPROPRIATE...
...AS THIS IS DEFINITELY A CASE OF THE TAIL WAGGING THE DOG.
...BUT TO THOSE TWO IMBECILES, SHE'S MERELY A TOOL TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THE PRESIDENCY.
IS THERE SOMEONE OUTSIDE?
WHAT'S WRONG, T-CHAN?


THE KIRIN IS BELIEVED TO RULE OVER ALL CREATURES WITH FUR.
IN CHINA, THE KIRIN IS ONE OF THE FOUR SACRED BEASTS, ALONG WITH THE DRAGON, PHOENIX AND GENBU.
I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU SO LATE.
I'M SORRY I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING...
...BUT I'VE BROUGHT YOUR NEW MASTER WITH ME.
THIS IS A ROOM FIT FOR A KING.
WE'RE NOT GONNA HAVE TO BOW DOWN TO IT OR ANYTHING WHEN WE SEE IT, ARE WE?
Shhh...
KIRIN'S WILL?
I AM RELUCTANT, BUT...
IT IS THIS KIRIN'S WILL.


THEY'RE BOUND.
AND HER FEET?!
IN ANCIENT CHINA, THE FEET OF GIRLS WERE BOUND TOGETHER UNTIL THEY BECAME ADULTS.
IT WAS TO PREVENT THEM FROM WALKING AROUND FREELY. AN INHUMANE TRADITION.
KIRINS ARE CREATURES OF GREAT COMPASSION.
THE BINDING KEEPS THEM FROM STEPPING ON PLANTS OR INSECTS WHILE WALKING.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
IT'S A LITTLE KID!
THE WORD "KIRIN" COMBINES THE "KI," THE MALE UNICORN, WITH THE "RIN," THE FEMALE UNICORN.
THIS IS KEIRIN-SAMA.
UP! UP!

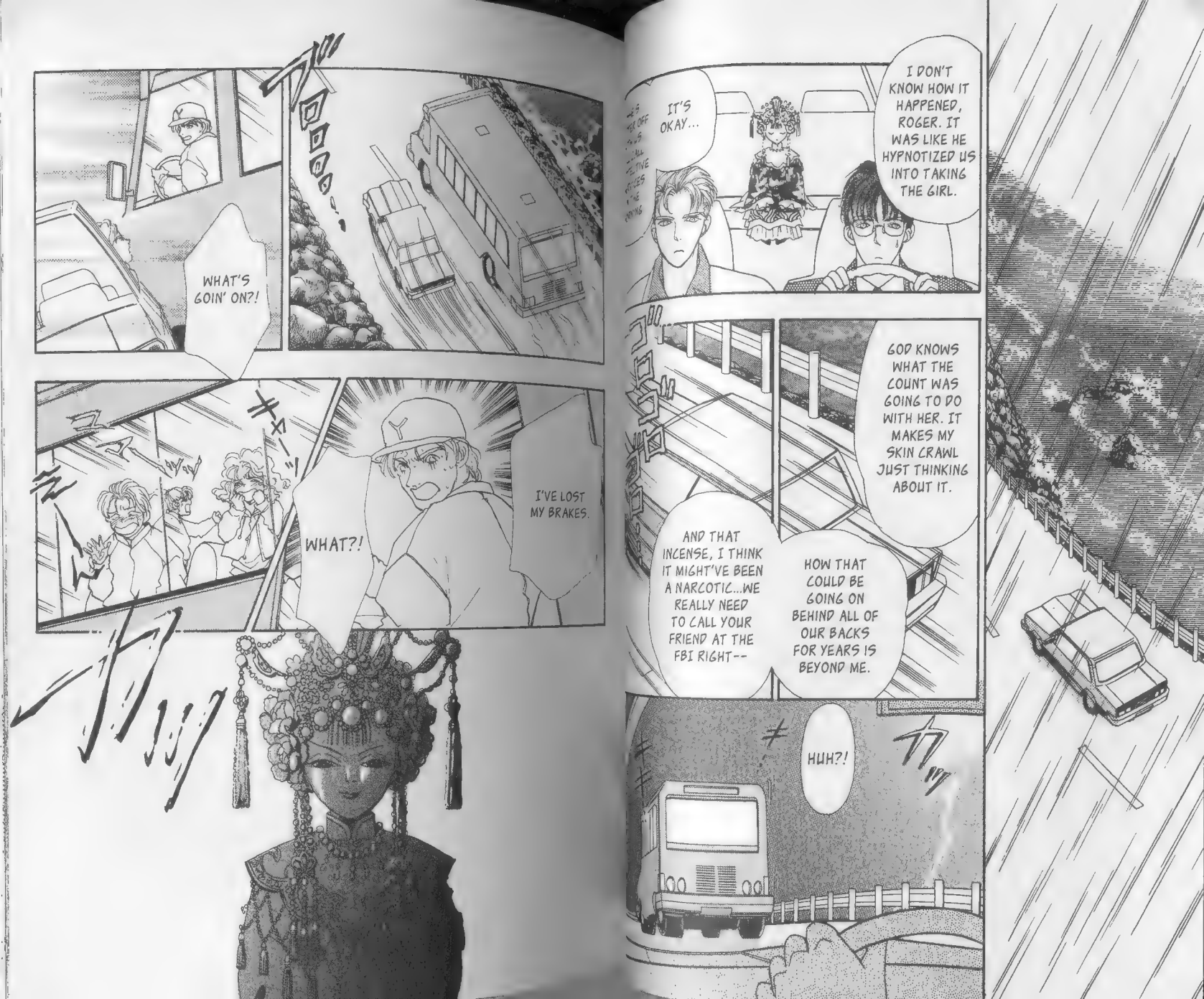
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. WHAT IS THIS, THE BLACK MARKET?
YOU'RE SELLING CHILDREN, COUNT. THAT'S JUST SICK.
ROGER...
YEAH, BUT IT'LL ALSO KEEP HER FROM RUNNING AWAY, RIGHT?
LET'S GO, KELLY!!
I'M OUTTA HERE. YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE LIKE A TREE BEFORE THE FEDS COME DOWN ON THIS PLACE. AND I ASSURE YOU...THEY WILL.
YES, SIR.
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?
SERVICE AS CONGRESSMAN IS BUT ONE PAGE IN THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE.
AFTERWARDS, YOU WILL BECOME A SENATOR, A GOVERNOR AND EVENTUALLY THE VICE-PRESIDENT.
THEN, AT THE AGE OF 35, YOU WILL BECOME THE YOUNGEST PRESIDENT IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY.
PLEASE WAIT...
...MR. PRESIDENT.
THE UNITED STATES WILL ENTER AN AGE OF PROSPERITY UNEQUALED IN HISTORY, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY.
ITS TERRITORY WILL INCREASE THREEFOLD, ITS GNP TENFOLD, ITS POPULATION WILL DOUBLE WHAT IT IS NOW...
WH-WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
THAT INCENSE...
I THINK IT'S SOME SORT OF DRUG...
I FEEL STRANGE...
EVERYONE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BOW DOWN BEFORE YOU.

THIS CONTRACT EXPIRES AT THE END OF YOUR PRESIDENCY.
NOW, LET US SIGN THE DOCUMENTATION
I WILL MEET YOU AGAIN PRECISELY EIGHT YEARS AFTER YOU TAKE OFFICE.

IF YOU BECOME PRESIDENT, YOU WILL AT LAST BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK IN TRIUMPH AT ALL THOSE WHO ACCUSED YOU OF RELYING TOO MUCH ON YOUR GOOD LOOKS AND INFLUENTIAL FAMILY TO GET BY.
.. THE WORLD WILL NITY AND BECOME ONE NATION, ELIMINATING HE FEAR OF ANOTHER WORLD WAR, AND USHERING IN A NEW AGE OF PEACE.
IF ROGER BECOMES PRESIDENT...
THE KIRIN WILL GRANT YOU ALL YOUR DESIRES.

THE KIRIN SELECTS AN APPROPRIATE KING...
NO MAN CAN TAME THE KIRIN.
...AND THE KIRIN GRANTS HIS EVERY DESIRE.
BUT THOSE DESIRES DON'T COME CHEAP, AND THE COST IS PAYABLE IN BLOOD.
...AND WHICH ONE GETS STUCK FOOTING THE BILL.
NOW WE'LL SEE WHICH MAN THIS KIRIN CHOOSES AS KING.

NO BEAST HAS BROUGHT MORE CHANGE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD...OR MORE DEATH.
SAVE THE ERLAND FROM VERTY AND T, THE NAZIS MILLIONS OF ENT PEOPLE TO ATH CAMPS.
IN THE PAST, MANY EMPERORS HAVE MADE PACTS WITH THE KIRIN.
OVER 60 YEARS AGO, WISHING TO PUT AN END TO THIS, ROGER'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER...
...ORDERED TWO NEW BOMBS TO BE DEPLOYED.


I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, ROGER. IT WAS LIKE HE HYPNOTIZED US INTO TAKING THE GIRL.
IT'S OKAY...
GOD KNOWS WHAT THE COUNT WAS GOING TO DO WITH HER. IT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
HOW THAT COULD BE GOING ON BEHIND ALL OF OUR BACKS FOR YEARS IS BEYOND ME.
AND THAT INCENSE, I THINK IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A NARCOTIC...WE REALLY NEED TO CALL YOUR FRIEND AT THE FBI RIGHT--
HUH?!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!
I'VE LOST MY BRAKES.
WHAT?!

IF WE DON'T STOP THE VAN...
KELLY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

TH...
THAT'S...!
UGH
ROG...
ROGER?!

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY OR WAR...
PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLE ON EARTH...
NO...
WEALTH? PRESTIGE? POWER?
WHAT IS YOUR DESIRE?
MY... DESIRE?
TH-THAT'S NOT IT.

THAT RING...
IT'S...
THAT WOULD BE...ENOUGH...
...IS TO SEE NANCY SMILE.
WHAT I REALLY WANT...
Understood.

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME A WARRANT, I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
THAT'S RICH, LEON. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?
OH, I'LL GET ONE. EVEN IF IT MEANS ASKING THE MAYOR!
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL A JUDGE IS GOING TO ISSUE A WARRANT BASED ON THAT IDIOTIC THEORY. WE'LL GET LAUGHED OUT OF COURT! CHRIST, ORCOT, YOU CAN'T BLAME EVERY BAD THING THAT HAPPENS ON THE COUNT.
YOU GET ME A WARRANT AND I'LL GET YOU THE EVIDENCE.
YO, MAYOR!!
DON'T NEED ONE!! OUTTA MY WAY!!
HEY!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?
HE ATTEMPTED TO STOP A BUS LOAD OF KIDS AND WENT CAREENING OVER THE CLIFF. ALL THE CHILDREN ARE UNHARMED.
STANFORD'S A LITTLE BANGED UP, BUT HE PULLED THROUGH.
HIS ASSISTANT, KELLY VINCENT, WASN'T SO LUCKY. HE WAS THE ONE DRIVING THE CAR.
ROGER STANFORD WAS IN AN ACCIDENT?!
D!!
THE COUNT'S INVOLVED IN THIS. I CAN FEEL IT!
SOMEHOW COUNT D MADE THE BUS LOSE CONTROL, KNOWING THAT STANFORD WOULD TRY TO SAVE IT.
THE COUNT COULDN'T EVEN SELL A GERBIL WITHOUT SOMEONE GETTING KILLED! AND I SAW STANFORD AND HIS AIDE IN THERE JUST THE OTHER DAY!
DO YOU KNOW HOW RIDICULOUS YOU SOUND, ORCOT?!
ORCOT?!

I ASSUME YOU'VE SEEN THE NEWS? MR. STANFORD IS CERTAIN TO BE REELECTED NOW.
HE'S A BONA FIDE HERO...RISKING HIS LIFE TO SAVE ALL THOSE CHILDREN LIKE THAT.
WE NEED MORE PEOPLE LIKE HIM IN OFFICE. DON'T YOU AGREE, RICHARD?
THE MAYOR IS ONE OF MY SHOP'S BEST CUSTOMERS, DETECTIVE.
OH YES, THAT BOY HAS A FUTURE.
HE'LL BE A SENATOR IN NO TIME... MAYBE EVEN OUR NEXT GOVERNOR.
I THINK YOU'RE BEING TOO MODEST, RICHARD.
I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN I'LL HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AS A CLIENT SOMETIME SOON.
MAYOR?!
MY DEAR DETECTIVE...
SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, COUNT D!
COUNT D?!
GREAT, GREAT. HAPPIEST PENGUIN IN SAN FRANCISCO.
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?! DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?!
UH, SIR?
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

BUT ROGER
KELLY DIDN'T MAKE IT.
HE'S DEAD.
BUT...I'M KELLY. WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
WHY IS SHE CRYING? I'M NOT DEAD!
ROGER ...
ROGER!!
N-NANCY ...
ROGER!!
YOU'RE CONSCIOUS!
OH ROGER, I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE OKAY.
.....
WHAT IS ROGER'S ENGAGEMENT RING...
..DOING ON MY HAND?!

NANCY, DON'T CRY.
I'LL...DO MY BEST...
KELLY WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY.
OKAY... ROGER...
ROGER?!
I PROMISE YOU...
ONCE WE GET MARRIED WE'RE GOING TO BUY A NICE HOUSE.
WE'LL HAVE CHILDREN...
...AND BUY A DOG.
I'LL COME HOME AT SEVEN EVERY NIGHT...
...SO WE CAN HAVE DINNER TOGETHER... AS A FAMILY.
ROGER? OH...

...ET'S ...T HOPE ...'RE ALL ...STERED ...TERS. ...GHT?
AND JUST LOOK AT ALL THESE FLOWERS!
YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU!
MR. STANFORD, DON'T WORRY.
WE EXPECT YOU TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.
YOUR DESTINY WILL TRULY BE A NOBLE ONE, MY KING.
WITH POWER AND WEALTH...
INTELLIGENCE AND KINDNESS...
IT WAS... THE KIRIN.
THE KIRIN...

IT WILL BE A HOUSE WHERE SPELLING TESTS...

...WILL ALWAYS BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN VOTER POLLS.

END OF EPISODE 1

Pet Shop of Horrors

ペットショップ　オブ　ホラーズ

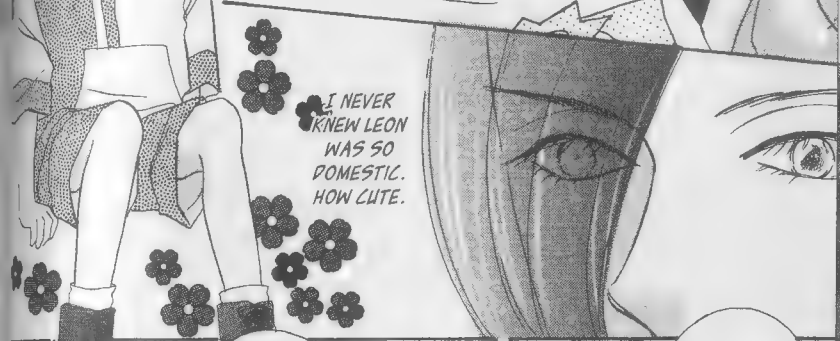
第2話／Day Nursery

OH COME ON, SHE WAS A LITTLE HELLION WHO DESERVED TO EAT HER OWN FECES.
Kyu!
TRUST ME, I'M NOT REALLY THRILLED ABOUT THIS EITHER. DON'T FORGET, YOU ALMOST TURNED THE LAST KID I LEFT WITH YOU INTO A DOG.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

W-WAIT, MR. DETECTIVE!!
AND DON'T EAT ANYTHING WEIRD!
OKAY, CHRISTOPHER, I WANT YOU TO BE GOOD.
LOOK, YOU'RE WATCHING THE KID AND THAT'S THE LAST I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT! I CAN STILL HAVE YOU LOCKED UP, YOU KNOW!
DAMMIT, COUNT! CAN YOU BE SERIOUS FOR ONCE?!

MY GOODNESS...
He could have at least handcuffed him for me

WHY, HOWEVER DID MY DEAR DETECTIVE WIND UP WITH SUCH A YOUNG SIBLING?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
WHAT DOES MATTER IS THAT I'M IN A PINCH. HE'S LIVING WITH ME NOW.


I NEVER KNEW LEON WAS SO DOMESTIC. HOW CUTE.

OH, C'MON! YOU'RE ALREADY TAKING CARE OF ALL OF THEM!
WHAT'S ONE MORE?

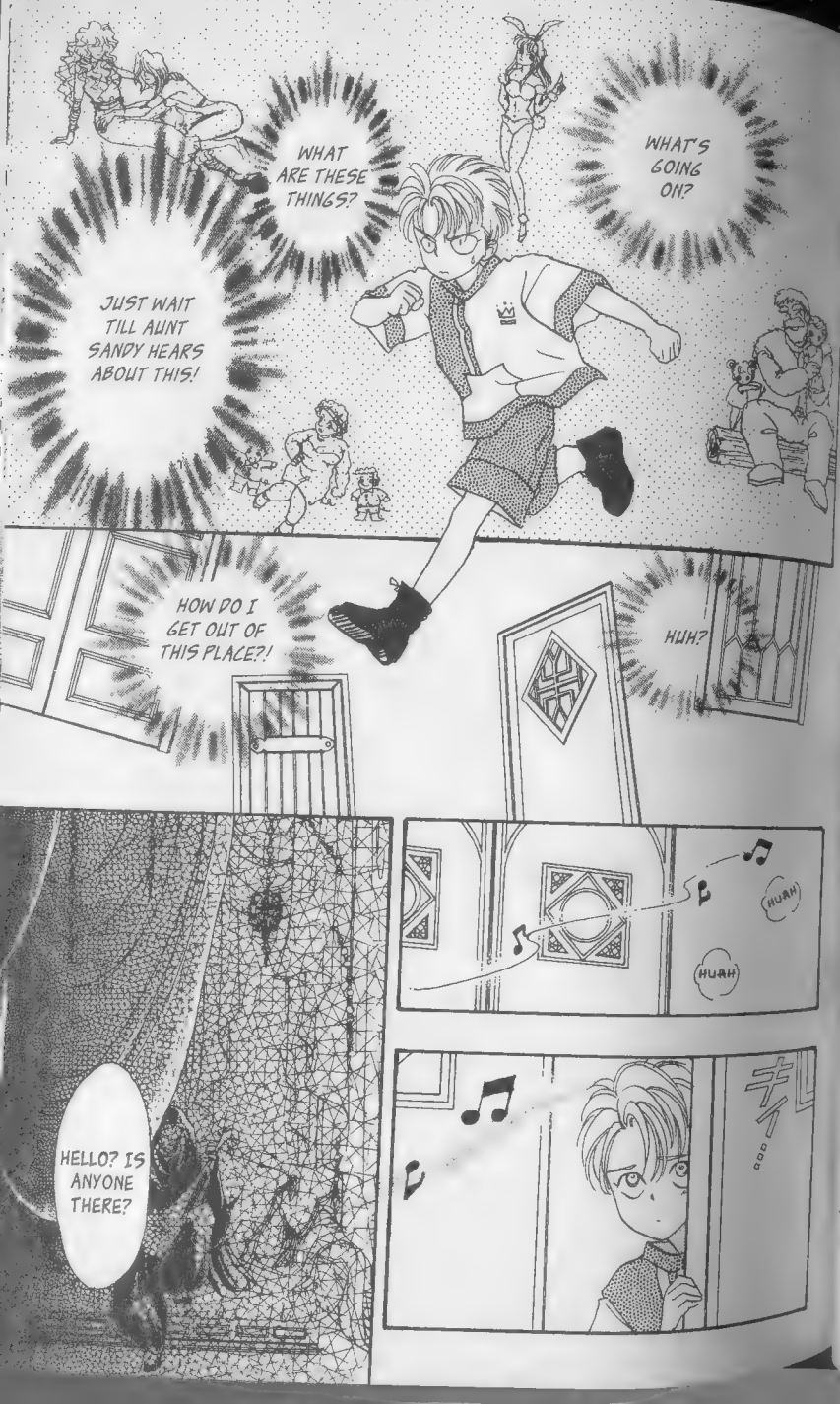
MY DEAR DETECTIVE, DO NOT LUMP THIS... THIS CHILD IN WITH MY PETS.
MY PETS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
DREN ARE ST...LOUD.

I HAVE TO GO ON A STAKEOUT AND I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO WATCH HIM FOR ME.
COUNT
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
THIS IS A PET SHOP, NOT A DAYCARE CENTER!

NOTHING A LITTLE OREGANO CAN'T FIX. I HAVE A GREAT RECIPE FOR RUGRAT FLAMBEAU THAT YOU'RE GONNA LOVE!
T-CHAN!
THAT LITTLE SHIT...
HA HA HA!
CHRISTOPHER?!
MY GOD... HE CAN SEE THEM!

SO, HERE WE ARE...
YOU'RE DETECTIVE ORCOT'S LITTLE BROTHER?
I CAN SEE THE RESEMBLANCE.
I CAN SEE IT TOO. KID'S GOT MY SYMPATHIES.

NO, LET'S PLAY DOLLIES.
HEY, LET'S HAVE A TEA PARTY!
HE'S RUNNING AWAY?!
LET'S PLAY DOCTOR!
HE'LL BE BACK, RIGHT?
TOLD YOU HE WAS A DORK.
THAT SUCKS. I WANTED TO PLAY.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HEE HEE...
HEH HEH...
OOH, IT'S A BOY!
HE LOOKS LIKE A DORK!
A BOY? EWW!!!
HE'S CUTE!
WANNA PLAY?!
YOU'RE THE DORK!
WHO'S HUNGRY?
WELL, THAT WAS WEIRD


WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST WAIT TILL AUNT SANDY HEARS ABOUT THIS!
HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS PLACE?!
HUH?
HUAH!
HUAH
HELLO? IS ANYONE THERE?

FRESH CHILD! MY, MY, MY!
THE COUNT MUST BE FEELING GENEROUS TODAY.
COME NOW, MILFORD.
YOU REMEMBER HOW MAD COUNT D WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ATE HIS GUEST, DON'T YOU? RUN ALONG NOW, DEAR.
THAT BOY'S NOT YOUR DINNER. HE'S THE COUNT'S GUEST!

TO TRULY EXPLAIN THAT WOULD REQUIRE WORDS THAT DON'T EXIST IN YOUR LANGUAGE.
LET'S JUST SAY...
THAT IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO HEAR THOUGHTS.
YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW HOW TO LISTEN WITHOUT YOUR EARS.
WAIT A MINUTE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING?
I'M...I'M NOT SPEAKING OUT LOUD...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. DON'T BE AFRAID.
COUGH
COUGH
EXCUSE ME. COULD YOU BE A DEAR AND GET ME SOME WATER?
OH, YOU PRECIOUS LITTLE THING. COME HERE, SWEETIE.
ARE YOU SICK?
NO, SWEETIE...
I'M JUST... JUST NOT AS YOUNG AS I USED TO BE.
COUGH
Thank you.
ARE...ARE YOU THE COUNT'S MOM?
WHAT ARE ALL THESE THINGS?! THEY'RE NOT ALL YOUR CHILDREN, ARE THEY?
OH, HEAVENS NO! HO HO...
NO, I'M ONE OF THE OLDEST ANIMALS IN THIS SHOP.
THE COUNT BROUGHT US HERE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. I SUPPOSE WE ARE LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY.
...BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M JUST A KID. NO ONE WOULD LISTEN TO ME.
NO ONE WOULD WANT TO LISTEN TO MY THOUGHTS.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

Manga
Horror
USA $9.99

Pet Shop of Horrors™

Welcome to Chinatown! During your visit, be sure to stop by Count D's pet shop, where love and dreams are sold in the form of mythical creatures – but not without a catch. The buyer must adhere to a set of rules, which if broken, may result in death... or worse.

DUAL: When a congressman visits Count D they discover they have something in common-both make your dreams come true... for a price. But when the final vote's been tallied, this politician may be in for the upset of a lifetime.

DAY NURSERY: When Leon lets his younger brother spend the day with Count D, he isn't expecting any trouble. After all, Christopher hasn't spoken a word in months. At least not to any people...

DARLING: A stray puss taken in by the Count ends up having an aristocratic pedigree. But by the time her princely owner comes to claim her, she's already developed a taste for freedom.

DANCE: Dancers and dreams coming together can be wondrous... or terribly destructive. And when their union happens at Count D's pet shop, Detective Orcot has a pretty good idea which of the two to expect.

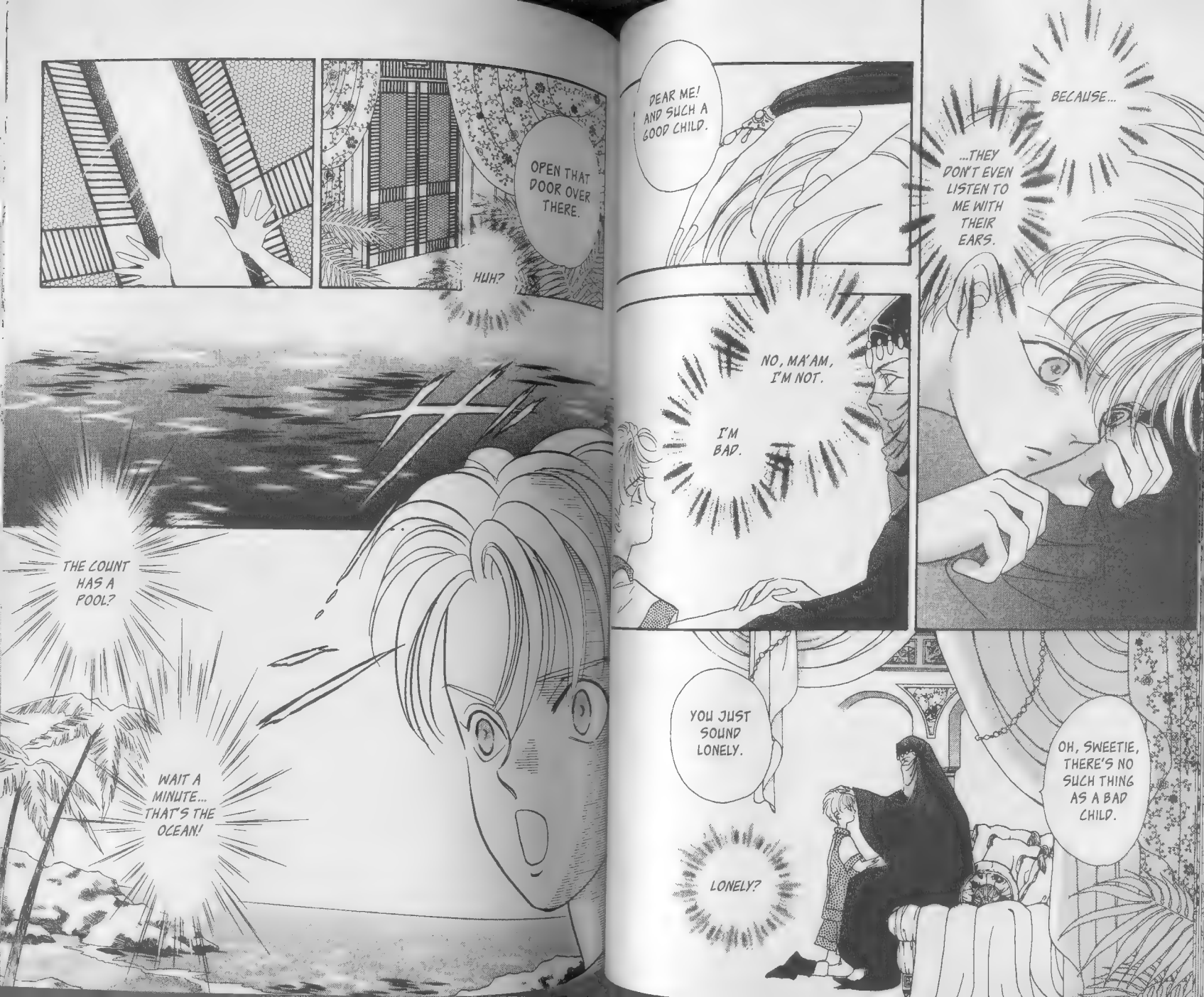
品質第一公式商品
100% AUTHENTIC MANGA
品質第一公式商品

ISBN 1591825024
82502
6 45573 00999 1
UPC

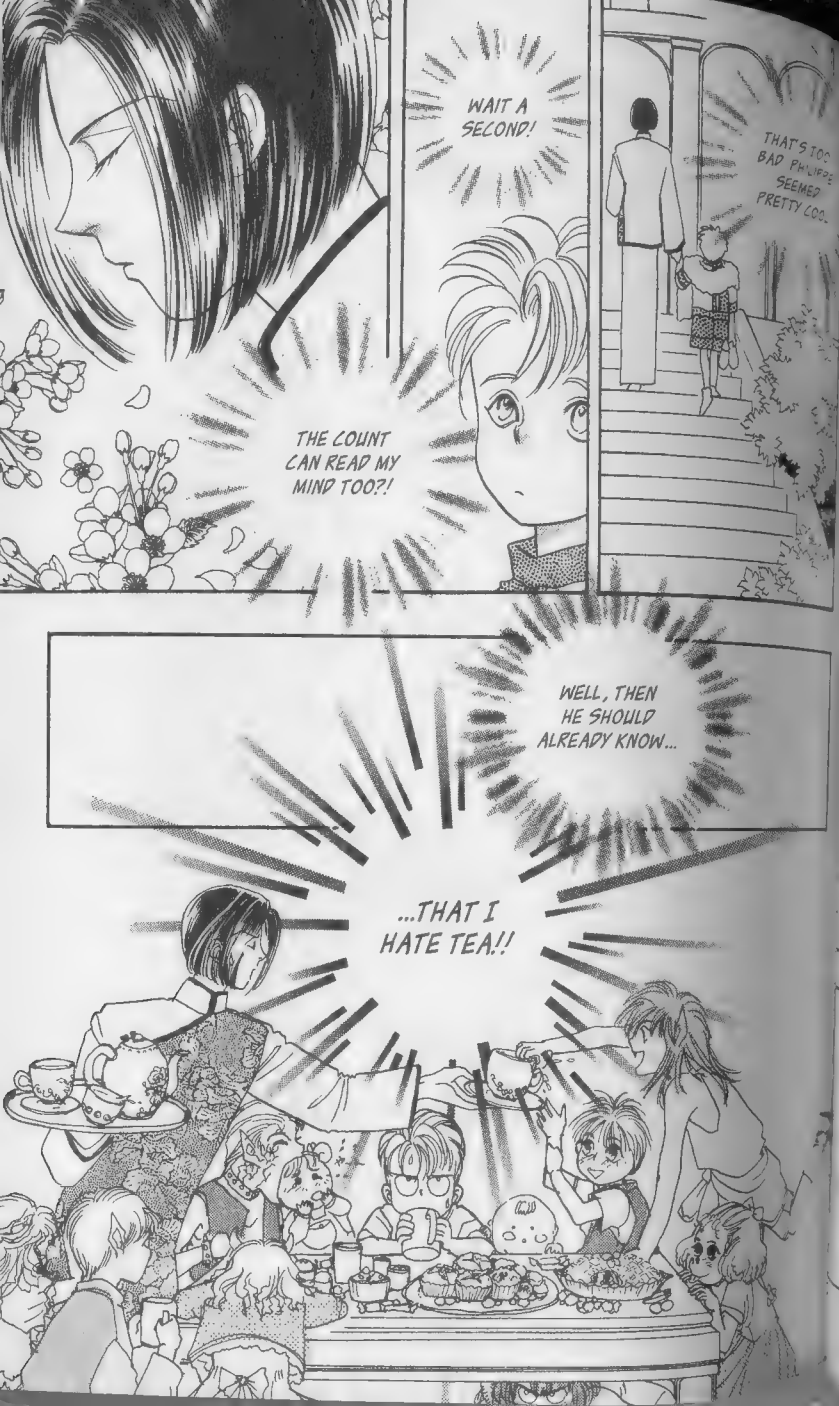
OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

www.TOKYOPOP.com

Pet Shop of Horrors
TOKYOPOP
5
Matsuri Akino

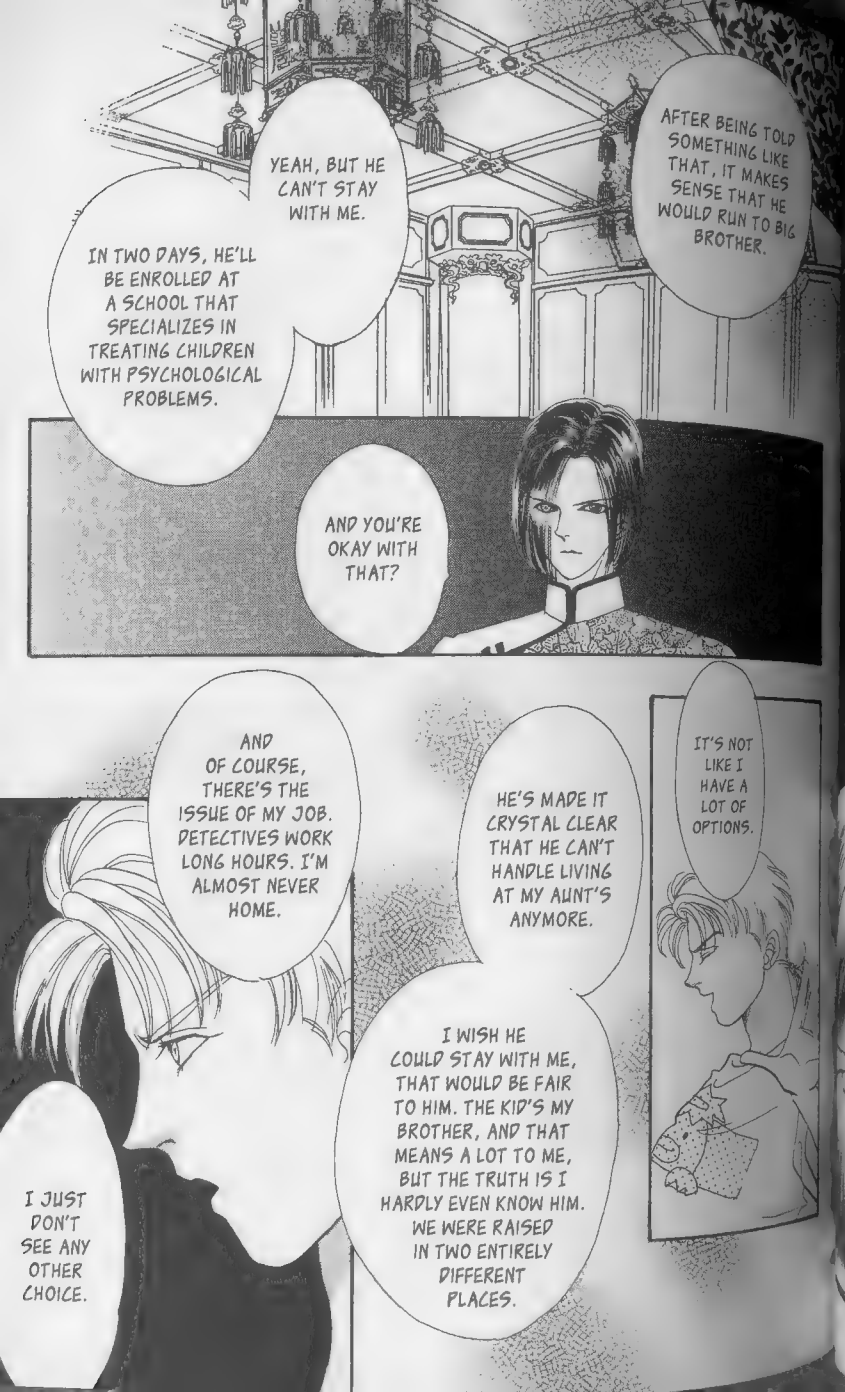

OPEN THAT DOOR OVER THERE.
HUH?
THE COUNT HAS A POOL?
WAIT A MINUTE... THAT'S THE OCEAN!
DEAR ME! AND SUCH A GOOD CHILD.
NO, MA'AM, I'M NOT.
I'M BAD.
BECAUSE...
...THEY DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO ME WITH THEIR EARS.
YOU JUST SOUND LONELY.
LONELY?
OH, SWEETIE, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BAD CHILD.

OH, WHAT THE HECK...
.....
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! C'MON!
WHOA!
HE SWIMS LIKE A FISH!
BUT... BUT...
CHINATOWN ISN'T ON THE WATER.
HEEEEY!
UH... HELLO?
I DIDN'T BRING MY SUIT.
COME ON IN, MAN! THE WATER'S PERFECT!


WAIT A SECOND!
THE COUNT CAN READ MY MIND TOO?!
THAT'S TOO BAD. PHILIPPE SEEMED PRETTY COO...
WELL, THEN HE SHOULD ALREADY KNOW...
...THAT I HATE TEA!!

FELT GOOD, DIDN'T IT?
YEAH!
CHRISTOPHER!
HEY, ISN'T HE COMING WITH US?
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. PHILIPPE DOESN'T LIKE SWEETS.
Later, dude!
IT'S SNACK TIME.
OOH, THE COUNT!

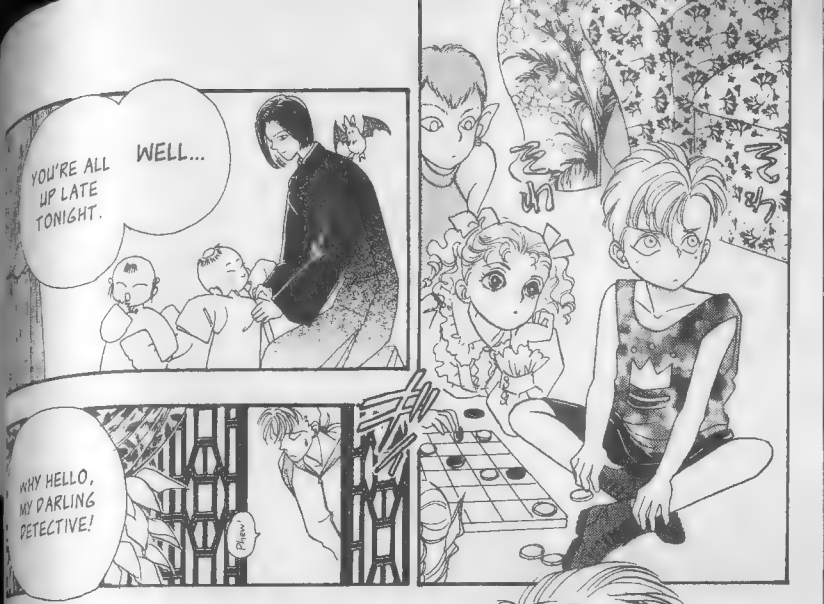
IS SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, LEON?
...BUT HIS MOTHER...
...OUR MOTHER...
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BRING IT UP EARLIER...
SHE DIED GIVING BIRTH TO CHRISTOPHER.
WELL, SHE WENT AHEAD WITH THE PREGNANCY ANYWAY. AFTER HER DEATH, MY AUNT AND UNCLE TOOK CHRIS IN. THEY RAISED HIM AS THEIR OWN SON FOR YEARS UNTIL...
SHE WAS NEARLY 50 WHEN SHE GOT PREGNANT. THE DOCTORS HAD WARNED HER OF COMPLICATIONS THAT COULD ARISE FROM HER AGE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE BAD STATE OF HER HEALTH ANYWAY.
SHH!! NOT IN FRONT OF THE KID!
AH, MY DEAR DETECTIVE...
OH, DON'T WORRY, HE'S TAKING A NAP.
WHEW!
SO, HOW'S IT GOING?

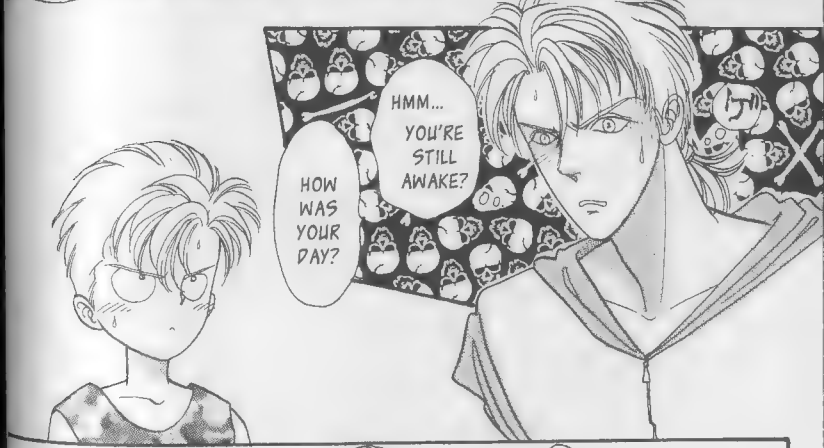

AFTER BEING TOLD SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT MAKES SENSE THAT HE WOULD RUN TO BIG BROTHER.
YEAH, BUT HE CAN'T STAY WITH ME.
IN TWO DAYS, HE'LL BE ENROLLED AT A SCHOOL THAT SPECIALIZES IN TREATING CHILDREN WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS.
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS.
HE'S MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT HE CAN'T HANDLE LIVING AT MY AUNT'S ANYMORE.
AND OF COURSE, THERE'S THE ISSUE OF MY JOB. DETECTIVES WORK LONG HOURS. I'M ALMOST NEVER HOME.
I WISH HE COULD STAY WITH ME, THAT WOULD BE FAIR TO HIM. THE KID'S MY BROTHER, AND THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME, BUT THE TRUTH IS I HARDLY EVEN KNOW HIM. WE WERE RAISED IN TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PLACES.
I JUST DON'T SEE ANY OTHER CHOICE.

YOUR REAL MOTHER DIED BECAUSE OF YOU!
YOU KILLED YOUR OWN MOM!!
YOU'RE NOT REALLY ONE OF US! YOU'RE ADOPTED!
IT WAS TERRIBLE ...
KIDS CAN BE SELFISH LITTLE PRICKS, Y'KNOW.
ANYHOW, CHRIS HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE.
OR RATHER...HE HASN'T SPOKEN TO ANY PERSON SINCE. THIS IS ALL STARTING TO MAKE SENSE.

I WANNA MEET HIM! HE SOUNDS REALLY COOL!
YEAH.
YOU HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER, DON'T YOU?
UH... WELL...
LOOK, COUNT D IS ONE THING, BUT IF YOU WERE TO TELL YOUR BROTHER ABOUT ME, MAYBE HE'D BELIEVE YOU!
Time to change the subject. NOW!
YEAH, I KNOW... "HEY, COME MEET MY FRIEND PHILIPPE. HE LIVES IN THE OCEAN THAT'S HIDDEN IN COUNT D'S CLOSET." HE'D THINK YOU'RE CRAZY, DUDE.
THE COUNT COMPLAINS ABOUT YOUR BROTHER ALL THE TIME. HE SAYS HE'S TOO CLOSED-MINDED. BUT DEEP INSIDE, HE REALLY LIKES YOUR BROTHER.
THEN YOU COULD HANG OUT HERE ANYTIME YOU WANTED.
MAYBE EVEN BRING YOUR BRO.
CHRIS AND PHILIPPE SEEM TO HAVE HIT IT OFF.
MADAM SULTANA?
YES, AND HOW FORTUNATE FOR LITTLE CHRISTOPHER.

GO ON, SILLY!
YANK


YOU'RE ALL UP LATE TONIGHT.
WELL...
WHY HELLO, MY DARLING DETECTIVE!
Pfew!


HMM... YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

HEY!!
HAVE YOU HAD DINNER, MY DEAR?
AND YOUR BATH?
COME ON, GO TALK TO YOUR BROTHER.

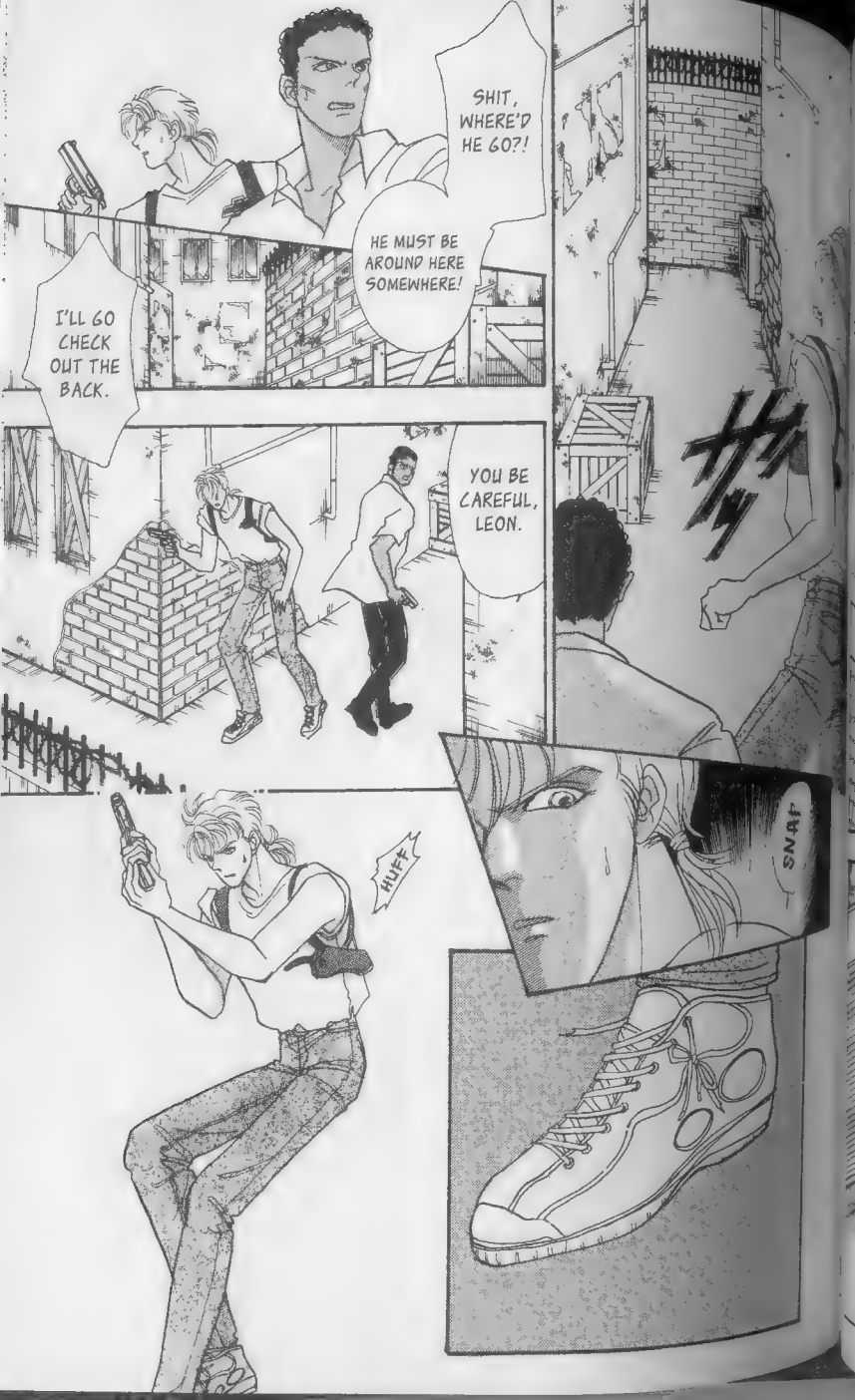
...I HAD TO OPEN FIRE ON A SUSPECT.
I...I COULD HAVE...
TODAY...
HOW IS YOUR BROTHER EVER SUPPOSED TO LET GO OF HIS GUILT IF EVEN YOU THINK HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING YOUR MOTHER?
WHAT? NO! THAT'S NOT IT.
UH...
CHRIS!!
SHIT. IT'S JUST...IT'S...
BUT...
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD TO FIRE MY WEAPON...
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO QUIT MY JOB OVER IT...
UGLY!
STINKY!
MEANIE!
SCUMBAG!
DEMON!
DAMN...

IT'S HOPELESS.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO MY JOB AND TAKE CARE OF HIM.
MY DEAR DETECTIVE...
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
WHAT IS YOUR DEEPEST... DESIRE?
I WANT...
...TO GET CHRIS SAFELY TO THAT INSTITUTION.
Hmph!

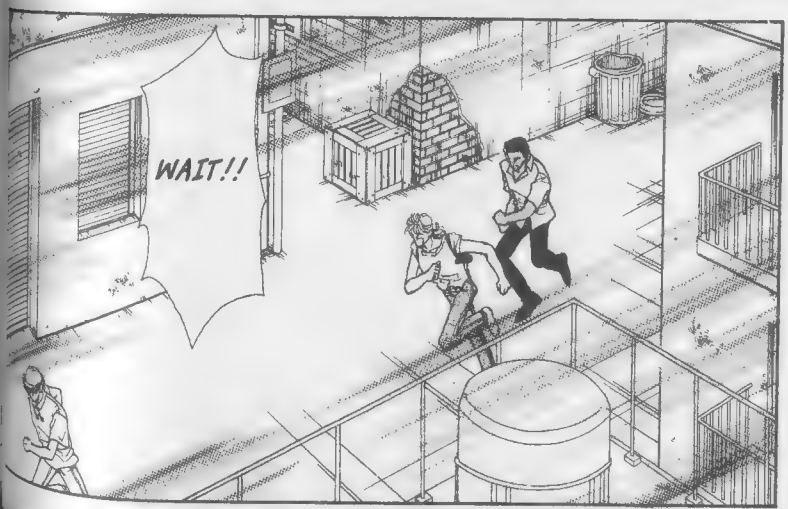
I'M BAD.
YOUNG ONE?
GRANDMA!!
I...
A BAD KID!
I REALLY AM...
I KILLED MY MOMMY.
OH, MY DEAR... WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED?
COME.
HUH?
I'LL GO GET SOME HOT WATER.
HOLD ON UNTIL THEN.

BUT...
AS A NEW LIFE ENTERS THIS WORLD...
...AN OLD ONE MUST LEAVE IT.
THAT IS NATURE'S WAY.
CONGRATULATIONS.
TWINS! HOW BEAUTIFUL!
THERE THEY ARE AWW THE PRECIOUS DEARS
YOU DID VERY WELL.
HUMANS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS BY GIVING GIFTS TO THE CHILDREN BORN EACH DAY...
...WHEN IN FACT, THE GIFTS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THEIR MOTHERS, THANKING THEM FOR GIVING BIRTH.
BREATHE...
NO, SHE'S GIVING BIRTH.
THIS WILL BE HER FIRST CHILD...
HUFF
HUFF
IS SHE SICK?
YOUR MOTHER WAS PROBABLY MUCH LIKE THIS WHEN SHE GAVE BIRTH TO YOU.
NO! YOU CAN'T DIE, GRANDMA!
YOU CAN'T!! I DON'T WANT YOU TO!
SOON IT WILL BE MY TURN...
AT THIS PET SHOP, THERE'S A BIRTH EVERY THREE DAYS...
...AND A FUNERAL EVERY TWO.

AND IT'S A LIFE SHE'D WANT YOU TO SHARE WITH YOUR BROTHER.
YOUR MOTHER UNDERSTOOD THIS, AND GAVE YOU THE GREATEST OF ALL GIFTS... LIFE.
BUT HE DOESN'T TALK TO ME.
OH CHILD, HE'S YOUR BROTHER! HE DOESN'T HATE YOU.
YOU'RE BOTH STILL CHILDREN.
BUT...
...MY BROTHER HATES ME.
YOU HUMANS MAKE EVERYTHING SO COMPLICATED.
YOU USE WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW YOU FEEL, YET WORDS ARE SO OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD.
LIVE STRONG AND WELL, YOUNG CHRISTOPHER.
CHILDREN ARE AS PRECIOUS AS STARS, AND YOU SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY THAN ANY OTHER.
MY BIRTHDAY IS...
NO ONE WOULD CELEBRATE THAT...
...THE DAY MY MOTHER DIED.
YOURS IS A RARE BURDEN, YOUNG ONE...
BUT WHEN MY CHILD WAS BORN, HE MADE NO SOUND AND HIS BODY WAS COLD. HIS WAS A LIFE NOT MEANT TO BE.
YEARS AGO, I GAVE BIRTH, MUCH LIKE YOUR MOTHER...
NOT A DAY HAS PASSED THAT I DON'T WISH I HAD DIED IN HIS PLACE.
...BUT YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CARRIES IT.


SHIT, WHERE'D HE GO?!
HE MUST BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
I'LL GO CHECK OUT THE BACK.
YOU BE CAREFUL, LEON.
SNAP
HUFF

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE AREN'T HEARD. THEY ARE FELT.


WAIT!!

HUH?!
COUNT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS SON OF A BITCH HAS KILLED 15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONE COP...
...BUT I CAN'T STOP WONDERING...
...DOES THIS GUY HAVE A FAMILY... KIDS.
OH, SHIT!
BLAM!

UH, MOM...
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
WHAT'S THAT, HUN?
...I WAS PISSED. I GOT USED TO BEING THE ONLY ONE.
IT WASN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER, LEON. I DIDN'T THINK I COULD HAVE ANOTHER BABY.
WELL
...WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN...
...AND YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE PREGNANT...
I MEAN, WHAT I MEANT TO SAY WAS...
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU...
MOM, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THINGS A LOT SINCE THEN.
THOUGHT ABOUT HOW SELFISH I WAS.

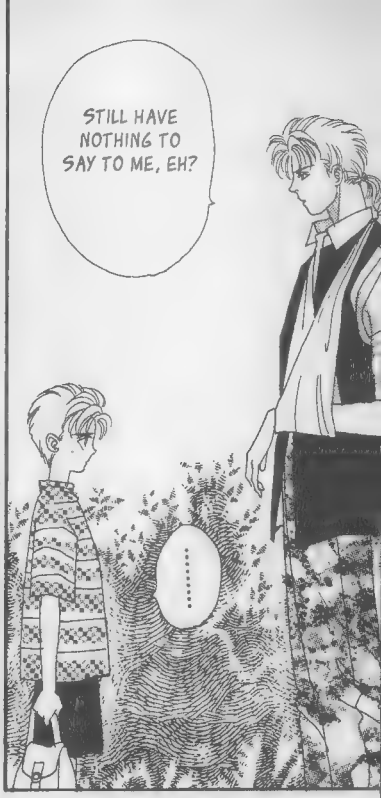
LEON ...
LEON!!
I WOULD HAVE HOPED YOU'D HAVE GROWN UP A BIT AS WELL!
YOU CERTAINLY ARE A LOT BIGGER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU.
HUH?
WHERE THE HELL AM I?
IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, DEAR.
MOM?
Y- YEAH...
OKAY...
HURRY UP. YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN!

MOM?!
!!
MOM, WAIT!
LEON?
BIG BRO...
!?
THANKS MOM. YOU RAISED ME GOOD, AND I LOVE YOU.
I...ALWAYS MEANT TO TELL HER THAT.
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
THANK YOU. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MOM.

DID YOU ALMOST DIE?
IT'S A SCRATCH!
Sheesh! You're gonna scare the kid!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
ポケ
DID...
I ALMOST DIE AGAIN?
HEY, BRO!
UH...
NGH...
WELL, CHRISTOPHER, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT.

I HEARD HIM. I KNOW I HEARD HIM.
EXCEPT...
HE CALLED TO ME, DIDN'T YOU?
DAMN.
CHRIS!!

DON'T WORRY! YOUR BROTHER'S GONNA BE FINE!
-RISTOPHER, 'RE GOING O HAVE SO UCH FUN!


STILL HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO ME, EH?

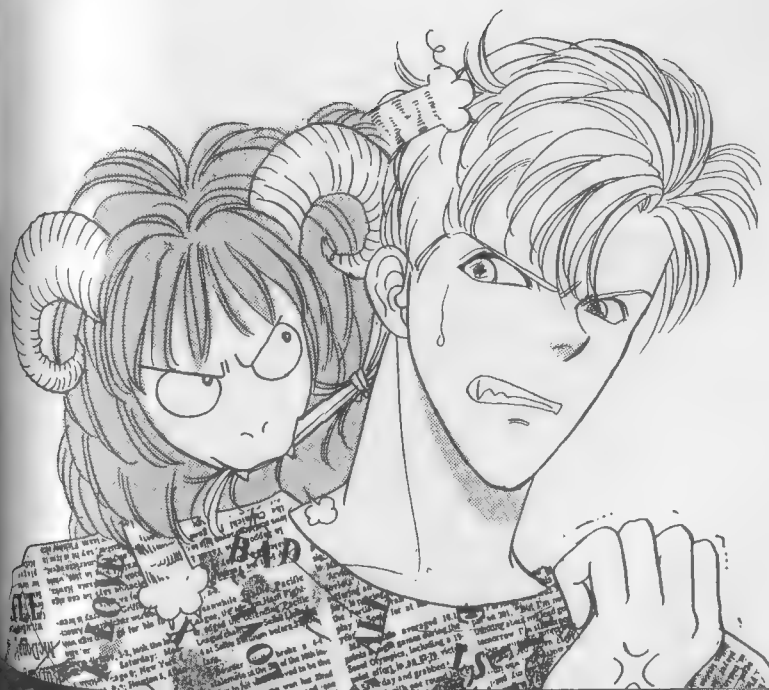
I MEAN, MY APARTMENT IS SO SMALL, AND AS WE'VE SEEN, MY JOB ISN'T EXACTLY THE SAFEST...
THE SPECIALISTS... THEY HAVE WAYS OF HELPING HIM.
AND THERE ARE KIDS HERE THAT ARE JUST LIKE HIM. CHRIS IS BOUND TO MAKE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
THIS REALLY IS THE BEST THING FOR CHRISTOPHER.

Ooh! Careful! That really hurts
WHAT THE HELL.
WE'LL SWEAT THE DETAILS LATER.
QUIT FREAKING OUT! IT'S JUST TILL I'M DONE WITH THIS CASE. I THINK...
...THIS IS A PET STORE, NOT A NURSERY?!
YOU'RE BACK! YAY, CHRIS!!!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU...
I'm hungry
End of Episode 2

第3話／Darling

Pet Shop of Horrors

ペットショップ　オブ　ホラーズ



I HAVE SEEN MANY DISTURBING THINGS IN MY LIFE...
BUT EVEN I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO TERRIFYING...
...AS THIS APARTMENT!!
THOSE EYES... LIKE PRECIOUS EMERALDS, GLITTERING FROM THE DEPTHS OF A GREAT DESERT...

CRACK
WHAT'S WRONG, COUNT?!
YOU LOOK WHITE.
OH, NO, NO, NO!
M...
MY NAIL...
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THIS APARTMENT TO GET ANY FILTHIER! LOOK AT THESE POSTERS! HARDLY EDUCATIONAL.
I THOUGHT LEON WAS LEAVING CHRIS AT MY SHOP BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE CHILD MAKING A MESS.
UH...
I...I GUESS...
COME NOW, CHRIS. HELP ME CLEAN UP.
AWW!
WHAT VILE TRASH!
TO RAISE A CHILD IN SUCH DEPRAVITY...
THE MAN IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE PETS I KEEP.

THE COUNT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR TRAFFICKING ILLEGAL EXOTICS AND DRUGS.
AND I'VE MADE IT MY PERSONAL GOAL TO SEE HIM BEHIND BARS.
ASSIGNMENT?
I NEED YOUR HELP WITH A CASE. I'M PUTTING YOU ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT.
THERE'S A REASON I'VE BEEN LEAVING YOU HERE AT THE SHOP.
WHAT?! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS INJURY! IT COULD TAKE OVER TWO MONTHS TO HEAL!
IT'S A FREAKING FINGERNAIL! WHAT SORT OF MAN WIGS OUT OVER A FUCKING NAIL!
And that's if it doesn't get infected!
YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVED, TEARING DOWN MY POSTERS. HOW DARE YOU JUDGE MY DECORATIVE MOTIF.
That's our cue to go.
OOF!
CHRIS NEEDS AN ADULT GUARDIAN, NOT AN OVERGROWN GREMLIN! ALL THE POSTERS OF NAKED, BADLY PROPORTIONED WOMEN HAVE TO GO. AGH! I NEED A SHOWER!
Gotta go!
Ha...
I TRUST YOU, LITTLE BRO. GOOD POLICE WORK IS IN YOUR BLOOD. JUST LOOK AT ME!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S IN THE FAMILY. DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER ORCOT, AT YOUR SERVICE.
...ONLY...
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED ANYTHING IN SCHOOL? YOU KNOW HOW TO WRITE, DON'T YOU?
I NEED YOU TO TELL ME IF YOU EVER SEE ANY SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE COME INTO THE SHOP.
OH, YEAH.
HF
HF
UH, LEON? CAN'T TALK, REMEMBER?
CHRIS...
...'S ABOUT ...ME I TOLD YOU...
UM, LEON...
tug
tug
HA, HA, HA,
SHIT...
HEE, HEE, HEE!

AND HIS TEA IS SO GOOD.
THE COUNT MAKES SUCH DELICIOUS SNACKS.
OOOO, FRIED MILLE-FEUILLE!
I KNOW— SI RAISING BU—
...CAN YOU RUN TO LITTLE TOKYO FOR ME? I NEED SOME MILLE-FEUILLE.
Hold the umbrella above us...
SOB
WHIMPER
SNIFF

I'VE SEEN THE COUNT SELL CHILDREN. THAT'S ILLEGAL, RIGHT?
...THERE AREN'T ANY ILLEGAL ANIMALS HERE. JUST WEIRD PEOPLE.
AND THE COUNT IS VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT MAKING SURE THE CUSTOMER'S ARE RIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN THEY TAKE HOME.
throb
CHRIS!
BESIDES, EVERYONE HERE CAN HEAR ME, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SPEAK...
...WHICH WOULD INCLUDE COUNT D.

I AM NOT LOST.
I SIMPLY STEPPED OUT TO GET A LITTLE FRESH AIR.
CRAP. ALL THIS TIME WITH THE COUNT HAS MADE ME FORGET THAT PEOPLE CAN'T HEAR ME.
ARE YOU LOST?
WHAT'S THE MATTER
.....
YOU CAN HEAR ME?
WHAT?!
HUH!
O-OKAY...
.....
HMPH. I DON'T SHARE MY NAME WITH COMMONERS LIKE YOU.
I...I'M CHRISTOPHER
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SOB
IS SOMEONE OVER THERE?
HER EYES...
THEY'RE LIKE JEWELS...LIKE EMERALDS...

COUNT D
HMM.
WELL, IF HE'S A COUNT, I GUESS HE CAN'T BE TOO BAD.
DEAR ME...
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
JEALOUS, ARE WE?
WHO'S SHE?! AND WHY IS SHE HOLDING CHRIS'S HAND?!

MY NAME IS PANDORA.
PANDORA.
MM?
PANDORA... SUCH A PRETTY NAME.
RUUUMBLE
OMIGOD, I'M SORRY!! IN ALL MY LIFE, I'VE NEVER BEHAVED IN SUCH AN... UNLADYLIKE MANNER.
.....
YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME. MY FRIEND, COUNT D, LIVES NEARBY.
HE'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
YOU LIKE SWEETS, RIGHT?
UH... WELL...

IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO PANDORA...
WELL, I SHUDDER TO THINK OF THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS SUCH A TRAGEDY WOULD INFLICT ON OUR COUNTRIES.
PANDORA IS NOT AN ORDINARY FELINE.
SHE IS A SYMBOL OF NATIONAL PRIDE TO OUR PEOPLE, NEARLY AS RECOGNIZABLE AS KING MUHAMMED HIMSELF.
GOTCHA...
OH-KAY...
PLEASE! HER SITUATION GROWS MORE DIRE BY THE SECOND!
YOU MUST FIND OUR BELOVED PANDORA NOW.
THIS IS WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE. I TRUST YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE RECOGNIZING HER, SHOULD YOU SEE HER.

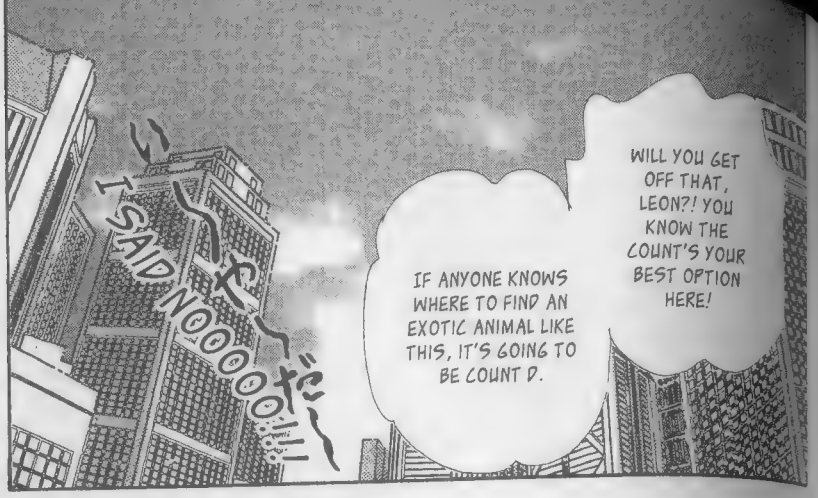
THE SUBJECT WAS ABDUCTED FROM THE FEMENI CONSULATE LAST NIGHT. IT'S BELIEVED THAT SHE IS STILL IN THE CITY. SHE WAS LAST SEEN WEARING A VERY EXPENSIVE EMERALD AND GOLD NECKLACE.
SHE HAS WHITE AND GOLDEN BROWN FUR. VERY BEAUTIFUL. THIS ISN'T JUST SOME RUN-OF-THE-MILL ALLEY CAT WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR HERE.
WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT SPEAK TO THE PRESS. THIS IS ALL VERY HUSH, HUSH.
CAT ?!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
H-HOW DARE YOU! THIS IS NO MERE HOUSECAT.
THIS IS SALEEM MUHAMMAD, THE CROWN PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF FEMEN, AND HIS U.S. AMBASSADOR.
AHEM.
What the hell?
WHY DON'T THEY CALL THE DAMN HUMANE SOCIETY LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS PULLED OFF THE BRADLEY CASE TO GO LOOK FOR A FUCKING CAT.

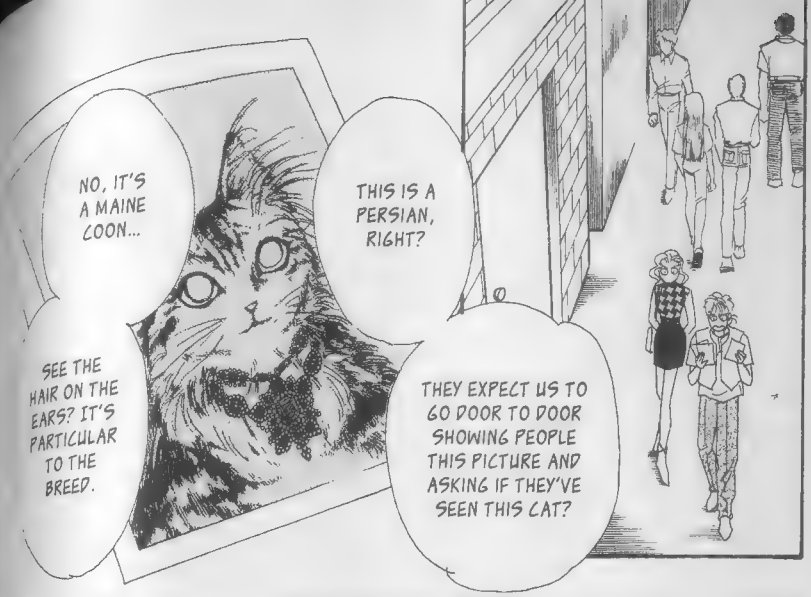
YOUR HAIR IS SO BEAUTIFUL, AND YOUR DRESS IS ABSOLUTELY STUNNING.
NOW THEN, PRINCESS...
YOUR FAMILY MUST BE WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.
AND THAT CHOKER... IT MATCHES YOUR LOVELY EMERALD EYES SO PERFECTLY.
COME, LET'S GET YOU BACK TO YOUR PEOPLE.
NO...
THE PALACE IS NO LONGER MY HOME.
WHAT?
おおお
PLEASE FORGIVE HIM, YOUR MAJESTY. HE IS YOUNG.
GAH! SNAP OUT OF IT, BOY!
SHE'S SO PRETTY.

AND I'VE ALWAYS HATED THIS DRESS. IT WOULD MAKE A NICE THROW RUG, D'YOU THINK?
AND MY HAIR! SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY MUST BE DONE WITH MY HAIR. I THINK I'LL CUT IT.
NOW...
LET'S GET RID OF THIS NECKLACE. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HEAVY THE DAMN THING IS!
WELL THEN, COUNT, IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, I WILL REMAIN HERE.
B-B-BUT...
BUT MOST OF ALL, THIS "HIGHNESS" AND "MAJESTY" STUFF NEEDS TO STOP. FROM NOW ON, PANDORA WILL DO NICELY.
SO, LET ME GET THIS RIGHT. THIS CAT IS YOUR ROYAL HEIR?

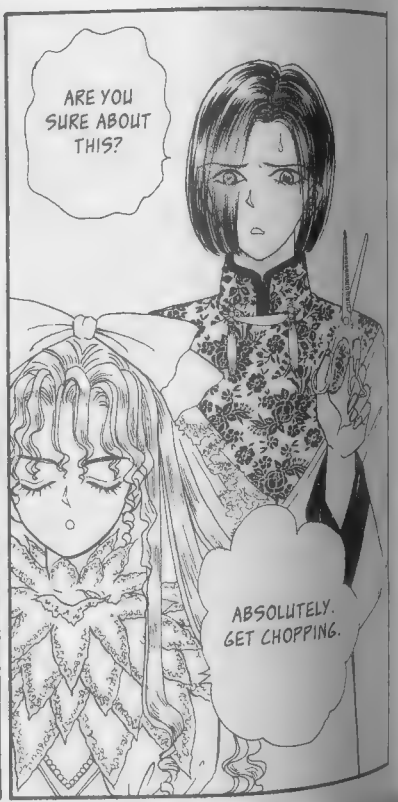
SHE RAN AWAY, FROM HOME. SILLY.
SHE WHAT?
I LEFT IT OF MY OWN ACCORD.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RETURN TO THAT LIFE.
I SEE...
PANDORA DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE WITH HER OLD FAMILY EITHER!
UH... CHRIS?
WE CAN SQUEEZE HER IN, NO PROB!
WE HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE, DON'T WE?
HEY, COUNT...

PLEASE, YOU MUST FIND HER!!
WE SUSPECT THAT IT IS AN ATTEMPT BY ONE OF SALEEM'S BROTHERS TO USURP THE THRONE!
I BEG YOU...
BUT LAST NIGHT, SHE DISAPPEARED FROM OUR CONSULATE, RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!
SO THE CAT PICKS SALEEM...FOR GOD KNOWS WHAT REASON. I MEAN THE GUY COULDA STUFFED TUNA FISH DOWN HIS SHORTS FOR ALL WE KNOW. STILL, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, SHE PICKS SALEEM.
IF YOU ASK ME, THESE GUYS ARE TOTALLY FUCKING NUTS.
THEY KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON BOTH OF THEM UNTIL THE DAY KING MUHAMMAD GOES CROAK, AT WHICH POINT SALEEM WILL ASSUME THE THRONE AND PANDORA WILL, I DON'T KNOW, GET TO PLAY WITH SOME YARN OR SOMETHING.
WELL, THE LAST THING THEY'RE GONNA WANT IS FOR THE CAT TO CHANGE HER MIND, RIGHT? SO THEY FLY THE BOTH OF 'EM TO AMERICA, AND LOCK 'EM UP IN THE FEMENI CONS...
THIS EMERALD, THE "EYE OF PERSIA," IS A FAMILY HEIRLOOM. IT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN THE ROYAL LINE FOR GENERATIONS.
WHOEVER POSSESSES THE JEWEL ASSUMES THE MANTLE OF CROWN PRINCE.
WELL, NO. NOT EXACTLY...BUT IT DOES BEAR THE NECKLACE OF THE HEIR.
SO WHAT THE HELL IS A CAT DOING WITH IT?!
ACTUALLY, PANDORA HAS ALREADY MADE HER CHOICE...
Here, kitty, kitty!
I got catnip!
PANDORA TOOK IMMEDIATELY TO PRINCE SALEEM, REFUSING TO LEAVE HIS SIDE, DAY OR NIGHT.
16 SONS THAT ALL WANT TO BE OUR NEXT KING. PANDORA WAS RAISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHO WOULD SUCCEED KING MUHAMMAD.
WELL, OUR KING, MAY ALLAH BLESS HIM, HAS 16 SONS...
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SOMETHING SO LAME!
OKLOT!
YOU MEAN...YOU'RE LETTING THE CAT PICK YOUR NEXT KING? WELL, I GIVE YOU POINTS FOR ORIGINALITY, AT LEAST. OUR GOVERNMENT'S GONE TO THE DOGS.


I SAID NOOOOO!!
IF ANYONE KNOWS WHERE TO FIND AN EXOTIC ANIMAL LIKE THIS, IT'S GOING TO BE COUNT D.
WILL YOU GET OFF THAT, LEON?! YOU KNOW THE COUNT'S YOUR BEST OPTION HERE!

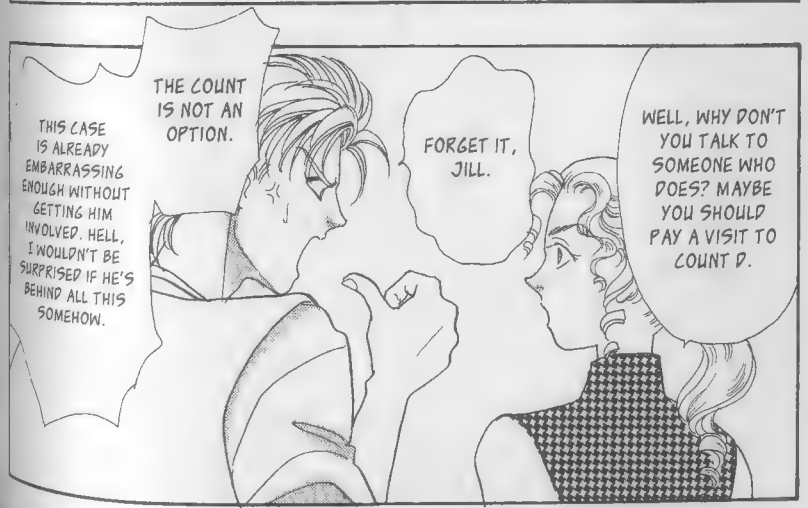

NO, IT'S A MAINE COON...
THIS IS A PERSIAN, RIGHT?
SEE THE HAIR ON THE EARS? IT'S PARTICULAR TO THE BREED.
THEY EXPECT US TO GO DOOR TO DOOR SHOWING PEOPLE THIS PICTURE AND ASKING IF THEY'VE SEEN THIS CAT?

IF YOU INSIST...


ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
ABSOLUTELY. GET CHOPPING.

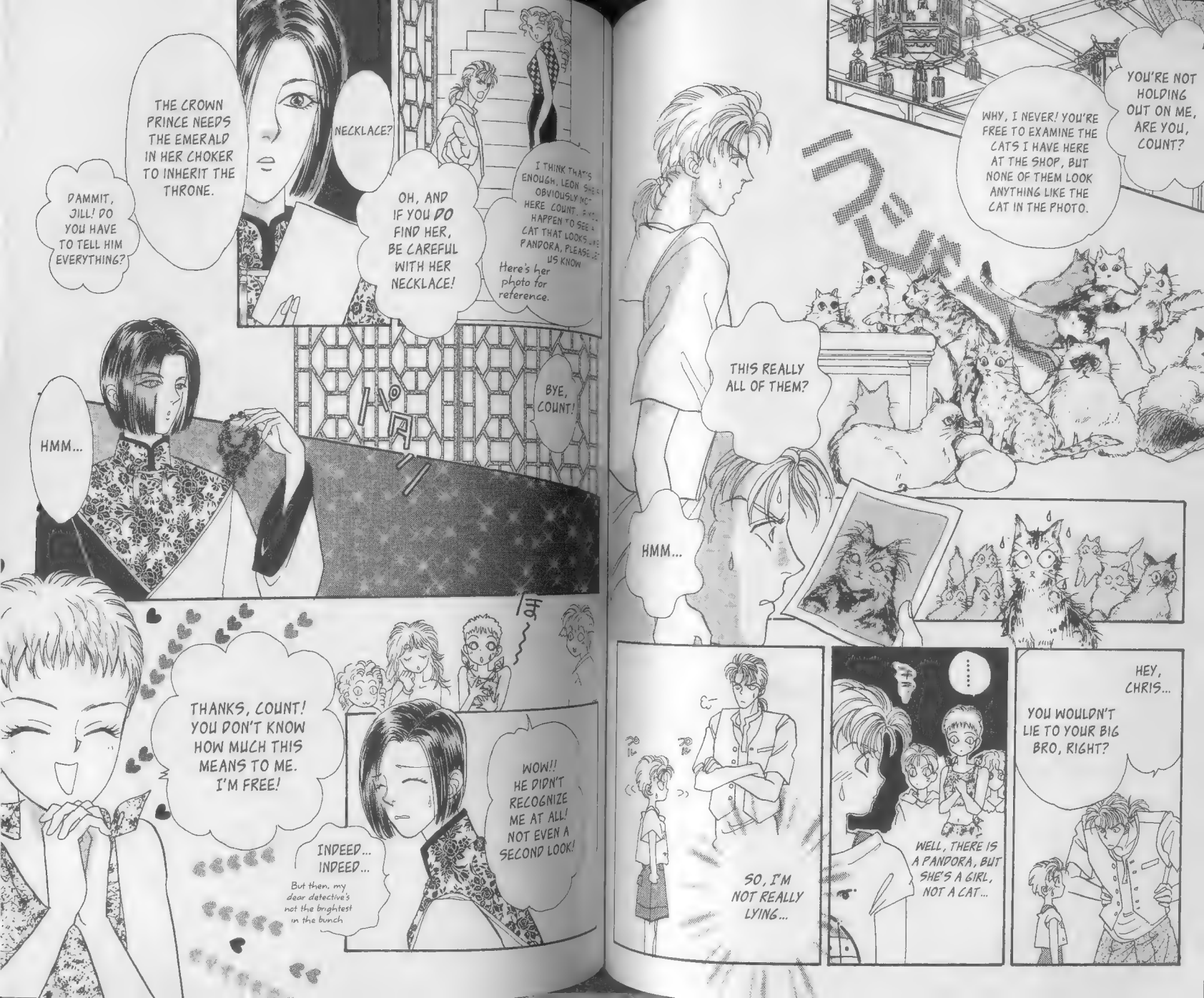
HOW'S THAT?
SHORTER!
HOW ABOUT NOW?
KEEP GOING...

LOOK, I'M A DOG PERSON, OKAY? I DON'T KNOW SHIT ABOUT CATS.


THIS CASE IS ALREADY EMBARRASSING ENOUGH WITHOUT GETTING HIM INVOLVED. HELL, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE'S BEHIND ALL THIS SOMEHOW.
THE COUNT IS NOT AN OPTION.
FORGET IT, JILL.
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO SOMEONE WHO DOES? MAYBE YOU SHOULD PAY A VISIT TO COUNT D.

DETECTIVE ORCOT, TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS PLEASURE?
SFFT
WORK. I'M ON A CASE.
Hi Count! Been awhile, hasn't it?
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
OH...
WHAT COULD HE POSSIBLY NEED NOW?
AHEM.
I'M LOOKING FOR A CAT. A...SPECIAL CAT.
I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
HER NAME'S PANDORA. SHE BELONGS TO THE CROWN PRINCE OF FEMEN. HALF THE DEPARTMENT'S LOOKING FOR HER.
WE'RE TRYING TO AVOID A POLITICAL DISASTER.

PLEASE.
WOW! SHE'S EVEN CUTER WITH SHORT HAIR!
I SEE...
Oops! Looks like I cut it a bit too short in places
YOU CAN HAVE IT, IF YOU WANT.
I DON'T CARE.
YOU LOOK NICE, BUT WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH YOUR NECKLACE?

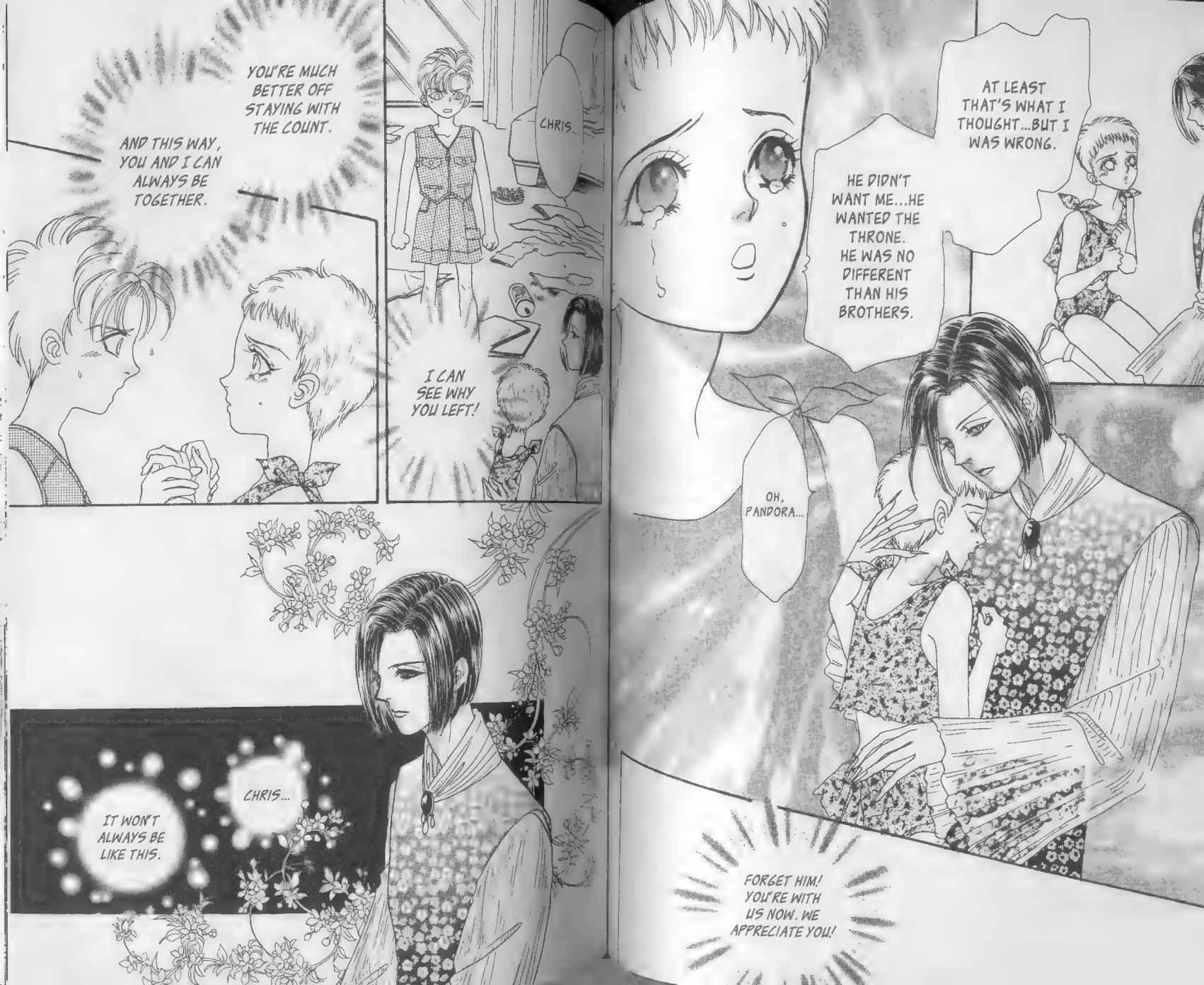

DAMMIT, JILL! DO YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING?
THE CROWN PRINCE NEEDS THE EMERALD IN HER CHOKER TO INHERIT THE THRONE.
NECKLACE?
OH, AND IF YOU DO FIND HER, BE CAREFUL WITH HER NECKLACE!
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH, LEON. SHE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT HERE. COUNT, IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE A CAT THAT LOOKS... LIKE PANDORA, PLEASE LET US KNOW.
Here's her photo for reference.
HMM...
BYE, COUNT!
HA HA!
THANKS, COUNT! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME. I'M FREE!
INDEED... INDEED...
But then, my dear detective's not the brightest in the bunch.
WOW!! HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME AT ALL! NOT EVEN A SECOND LOOK!
WHY, I NEVER! YOU'RE FREE TO EXAMINE THE CATS I HAVE HERE AT THE SHOP, BUT NONE OF THEM LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE CAT IN THE PHOTO.
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING OUT ON ME, ARE YOU, COUNT?
THIS REALLY ALL OF THEM?
HMM...
SO, I'M NOT REALLY LYING...
WELL, THERE IS A PANDORA, BUT SHE'S A GIRL, NOT A CAT...
HEY, CHRIS...
YOU WOULDN'T LIE TO YOUR BIG BRO, RIGHT?

LET'S SEE...
SO, PANDORA...
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO NEXT?
OOH! LET'S GO VISIT THE COMMON FOLK! IT WILL BE LIKE A FIELD TRIP!
THE, UH... COMMON FOLK?
CAW
CAAW
I'VE BEEN STUCK INDOORS FOR FAR TOO LONG!
I'M GOING OUTSIDE!!
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO SEE, ...TO DO...
GELATO
I HAVEN'T SEEN THE SUN IN YEARS!

THAT...THAT WOMAN AT THE SHOP. THE ONE WHO WAS NICE TO ME...
MY, MY... SHE SURE WAS A PRETTY ONE, WASN'T SHE?
IT'S A PICTURE OF LEON AND...MY MOTHER.
...AND WHO DIED ON THE DAY LEON GOT HURT... SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE HER!
OH YES, MADAM SULTANA...
THE BLACKBIRD COULD SPEAK LANGUAGE(S)?
BUT IT WAS THE MEANINGLESSNESS IN MAN'S WORDS THAT SHE TRULY UNDERSTOOD.
IT'S GREAT! IS IT THEIR CUSTOM TO STORE THEIR DIRTY SOCKS IN THE SINK LIKE THAT? AND THAT POSTER! IS SHE A GODDESS?
THIS IS A COMMONER'S ROOM?!
Oh my god...
HOW FUN!!
I WANNA TEAR STUFF DOWN TOO!
ガチャ
PANDORA, PLEASE SIT DOWN...
WHILE DETECTIVE ORCOT MAY WORSHIP HER, I ASSURE YOU, THERE'S NOTHING GODLY ABOUT IT.
WAIT... THIS PHOTO...
NO HARM DONE.
Sorry.

HOW DO YOU APPEAR TO YOUR OWNER?
PANDORA
SALEEM...
"PANDORA, YOUR EYES ARE LIKE PRECIOUS EMERALDS, GLITTERING FROM THE DEPTHS OF A GREAT DESERT..."
HE ALWAYS SAID TO ME.
OF ALL THE 16, HE WAS THE WEAKEST IN BOTH BODY AND HEART...
IN SHORT, HE WAS THE ONE WHO NEEDED ME MOST. NOT THE NECKLACE...ME.

NO...
IS IT ANY WONDER SHE WOULD RESEMBLE THE MOTHER THE BOY NEVER KNEW?
IN FACT, IT ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE...
WHEN A CUSTOMER VISITS, THE ANIMALS OF THE PET SHOP...
WHETHER IT'S A NEWLY DECEASED DAUGHTER...
...A FAITHFUL BODYGUARD...
...CAN SENSE THE DESIRES HELD DEEP IN THE VISITOR'S HEART...
...AND OFTEN TAKE ON FORMS THAT WILL FULFILL THOSE DESIRES.
...OR THE PERFECT LOVER...


YOU'RE MUCH BETTER OFF STAYING WITH THE COUNT.
AND THIS WAY, YOU AND I CAN ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
CHRIS...
I CAN SEE WHY YOU LEFT!
IT WON'T ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS.
CHRIS...
OH, PANDORA...
HE DIDN'T WANT ME...HE WANTED THE THRONE. HE WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN HIS BROTHERS.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...BUT I WAS WRONG.
FORGET HIM! YOU'RE WITH US NOW. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

AND YOU WILL LEAVE OUR WORLD BEHIND...
YOU STILL HAVE SUCH A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF YOU. SO MANY PEOPLE TO MEET.
SO MUCH TO STILL LEARN.
SO MANY CHALLENGES TO FACE.
AND, ONE DAY, YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE.
AND YOU WILL REGAIN HUMAN SPEECH...

HAITHAM, YOU'RE HERE TOO?
RIGHT THIS WAY, PRINCE KHALIL.
SISTER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YES, YES, AS YOU HAVE NO DOUBT NOTICED, I HAVE INVITED THE ENTIRE ROYAL FAMILY.

IT DOESN'T SAY.
WHAT'S THE RANSOM?
RIDICULOUS! IT'S A TRAP.
WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE.
IT JUST SAYS THAT PRINCE SALEEM IS TO GO TO A PLACE OF THE KIDNAPPER'S CHOOSING TOMORROW NIGHT. ALONE.
YOU SAY YOU'VE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE KIDNAPPER?
I...
I'LL GO.

I KNEW YOU WERE BEHIND THIS, COUNT!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR KIDNAPPING, BURGLARY AND EXTORTION!!
FILTHY COMMONER!!
HUH?

WHERE'S PANDORA?!
MY NAME IS COUNT D. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

IMPOSSIBLE! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
SHE HAS FLED THE CITY. I BELIEVE SHE MAY HAVE EVEN TAKEN A LOVER.
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE IS NOT HERE.

おおおっ、
OHHHH...
YOU NEED NOT BE CONCERNED.
I HAVE THE "EYE OF PERSIA" RIGHT HERE...

...AS SOON AS I FIGURE OUT...
...WHICH ONE OF YOU TO GIVE IT TO.
tap
!!
I AM THE ONE IN POSSESSION OF THE "EYE OF PERSIA"...
WHICH MEANS THAT I AM NOW THE CROWN PRINCE OF FEMEN.
WHAAAAAAT?!
JUST KIDDING.
HA...
HAHA...
OF COURSE, I INTEND TO RETURN THE NECKLACE TO THE ROYAL FAMILY...
AS SOON AS WHAT?!
...AS SOON--
OVER HERE, SIR!
I'LL MAKE YOU CEO OF MY CORPORATION!!
MARRY ME, AND WE'LL RULE THE KINGDOM TOGETHER!!
I PROMISE YOU'LL LIVE THE REST OF YOUR DAYS LIKE A KING!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HELL! MARRY ME! I DON'T CARE THAT YOU'RE A MAN!!
MONEY?! PROPERTY?! GIRLS?!

PANDORA...
SHE'S...NOT HERE....
Hmm...
COUNT D!!!
LIKE I SAID... COMPLETELY NUTS.
YOUR HIGHNESS!!
.....
QUICKLY, NOW!
YOU MUST GET HIS ATTENTION, SOMEHOW!

HERE.
PRINCE SALEEM...
THIS MOST CERTAINLY BELONGS TO YOU.
PANDORA!
PANDORA?
THAT UGLY THING'S PANDORA?!

TRUE DESTINY CANNOT BE CHANGED.
THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR BOTH PEOPLE AND THEIR PETS. THE REASON IS ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE
TRUE DESTINY ISN'T GRANTED... IT'S EARNED.

AT ONE TIME I WANTED TO BE KING LIKE ALL MY BROTHERS.
LITTLE WONDER WHY. WE WERE RAISED TO BE AMBITIOUS, AND LITTLE ELSE.
HOWEVER, BEING RAISED ALONE IN A CONSULATE IS NOT UNLIKE BEING IN PRISON. THERE'S NOT MUCH TO DO BUT SIT AND THINK.
NO...
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
PRINCE SALEEM?!
IN ALL THAT TIME, PANDORA...
...YOU WERE MY ONLY FRIEND.

Pet Shop of Horrors
第4話／Dance
ペットショップ　オブ　ホラー

BUT, PANDORA...
GIVE IT UP, CHRIS. IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
SHE'S OUTTA YOUR LEAGUE.
YOU'RE FROM TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLDS.
DON'T WORRY, CHRISTOPHER...
SOMEDAY, YOU'LL MEET YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE...
What about us?!
BUT UNTIL THEN, EXPECT TO BE DUMPED A LOT.
AFTER ALL, YOU ARE AN ORCOT.
End of Episode 3

EXCELLENT! JEANNE LA CROIX TRULY IS THE FINEST DANCER IN ALL OF BALLET!
AND WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PIECE! "THE DEATH OF THE SWAN." MAGNIFICENT! BRAVO!
SUCH GRACE, SUCH PRECISION! I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH EMOTION IN A PERFORMANCE!
JEANNE.
NICHOLAS ...
YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS.

LET ME FIND ETERNAL PEACE WITHIN YOUR EMBRACE...
IF THERE TRULY IS A GOD OF DANCE

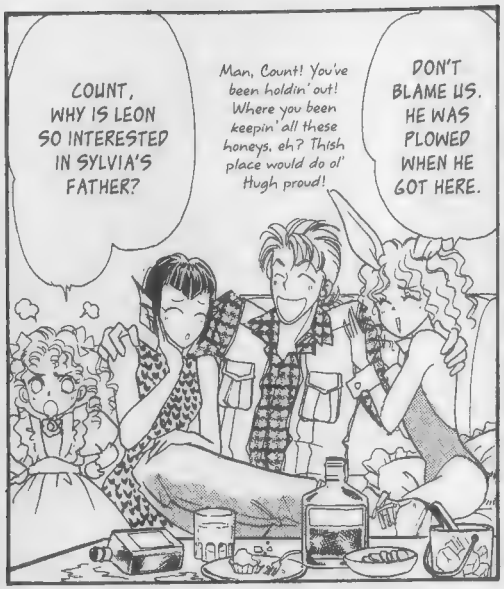
BUT SHE'S JUST A LINE GIRL! SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY DO THE PIECE JUSTICE.
YOU'RE KIDDING. SHE'S GOING TO DANCE ODETTE?
WHAT HAVE WE COME TO?
WHAT?
I...
UM...UM...
DOMINIQUE-
YOU AND NICHOLAS WILL MAKE A FANTASTIC PAIR!
J-JEANNE?
OKAY... RIGHT!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
SHE'S FAMOUS. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO IMPRESS ANYONE.
OKAY...WHAT WAS THAT?! WHO'S SHE TRYING TO IMPRESS?

ATTENTION, PEOPLE! GATHER AROUND!
GREAT JOB, EVERYONE! I BELIEVE THIS WAS OUR BEST YET. NOW, AS WE ENTER THE FINAL LEG OF OUR NATIONAL TOUR, I'M COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU TO REMAIN FOCUSED.
AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A BIG PUBLIC PERFORMANCE NEXT WEEK. WE WERE ASKED TO DO THIS ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, BUT I THINK WE'RE GONNA DAZZLE 'EM! I'VE FINISHED THE CAST LIST.
JEANNE WILL BE SYLPHIDE.
ALL RIGHT.
AND SWAN LAKE'S ODETTE WILL BE...
DOMINIQUE.
HUH?!
M-ME?!

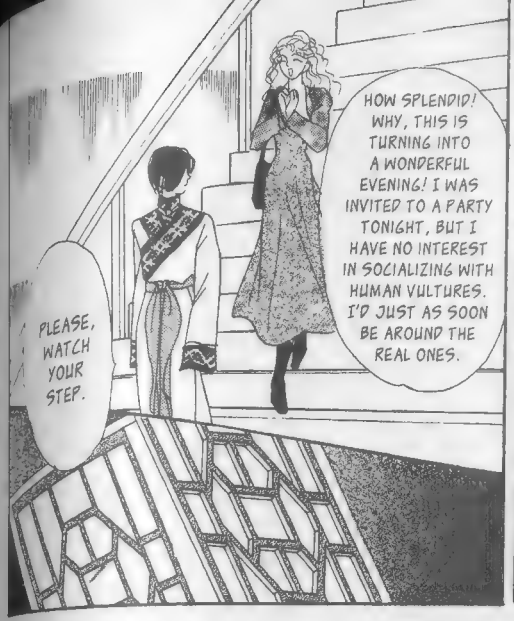
AH...

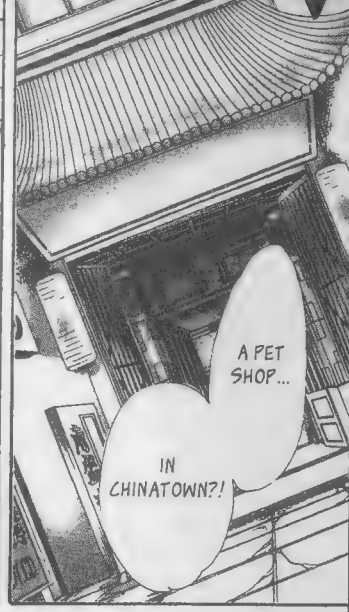
.....
JEANNE, THERE'S A BIG TO-DO BEING THROWN AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION TONIGHT.
NICHOLAS
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T...
I'M SURE ONE OF THE OTHER GIRLS WOULD LOVE TO GO WITH YOU.

AH!! NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE JEANNE LA CROIX, AREN'T YOU?
EUROPE'S QUEEN OF MOVEMENT.
YOU FLATTER ME, SIR.
A WOMAN AS GRACEFUL AS YOU...IT'S NO WONDER THE SWANS TAKE TO YOU LIKE ONE OF THEIR OWN.
I'M A DANCER.
Sounds morbid.
MY FAVORITE DANCE IS "THE DEATH OF THE SWAN".
WARK
WARK
MS. LA CROIX, I THINK YOU SHOULD VISIT MY SHOP.
I HAVE A COLLECTION OF RARE BIRDS I THINK YOU'D APPRECIATE.
SWANS FLY, WHILE ALL I CAN DO IS DANCE AND FLAP MY BROKEN WINGS.
BUT I'VE TRIED TO FLY. OH GOD, HOW HARD I'VE TRIED.
YOU WERE WATCHING THE SWANS WITH AN ALMOST PASSIONATE LOOK IN YOUR EYES.
PASSIONATE? NO, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT. IT'S MORE LIKE RESPECT. LIKE A STUDENT FOR HER TEACHER.
TEACHER?
MY MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES. IT SEEMS I'VE INTRUDED.
NOT AT ALL. I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE ANYONE ELSE WAS HERE.

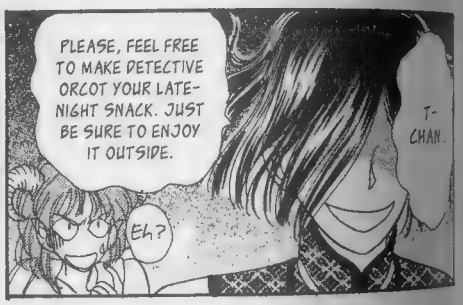

COUNT, WHY IS LEON SO INTERESTED IN SYLVIA'S FATHER?
Man, Count! You've been holdin' out! Where you been keepin' all these honeys, eh? Thish place would do ol' Hugh proud!
DON'T BLAME US. HE WAS PLOWED WHEN HE GOT HERE.

OKAY, WHICH OF YOU LET THE DETECTIVE INTO MY LIQUOR CABINET?!
Detective?


PLEASE, WATCH YOUR STEP.
HOW SPLENDID! WHY, THIS IS TURNING INTO A WONDERFUL EVENING! I WAS INVITED TO A PARTY TONIGHT, BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SOCIALIZING WITH HUMAN VULTURES. I'D JUST AS SOON BE AROUND THE REAL ONES.


A PET SHOP... IN CHINATOWN?!

OH, MY MANNERS! WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?


PLEASE, FEEL FREE TO MAKE DETECTIVE ORCOT YOUR LATE-NIGHT SNACK. JUST BE SURE TO ENJOY IT OUTSIDE.
T-CHAN.
Eh?

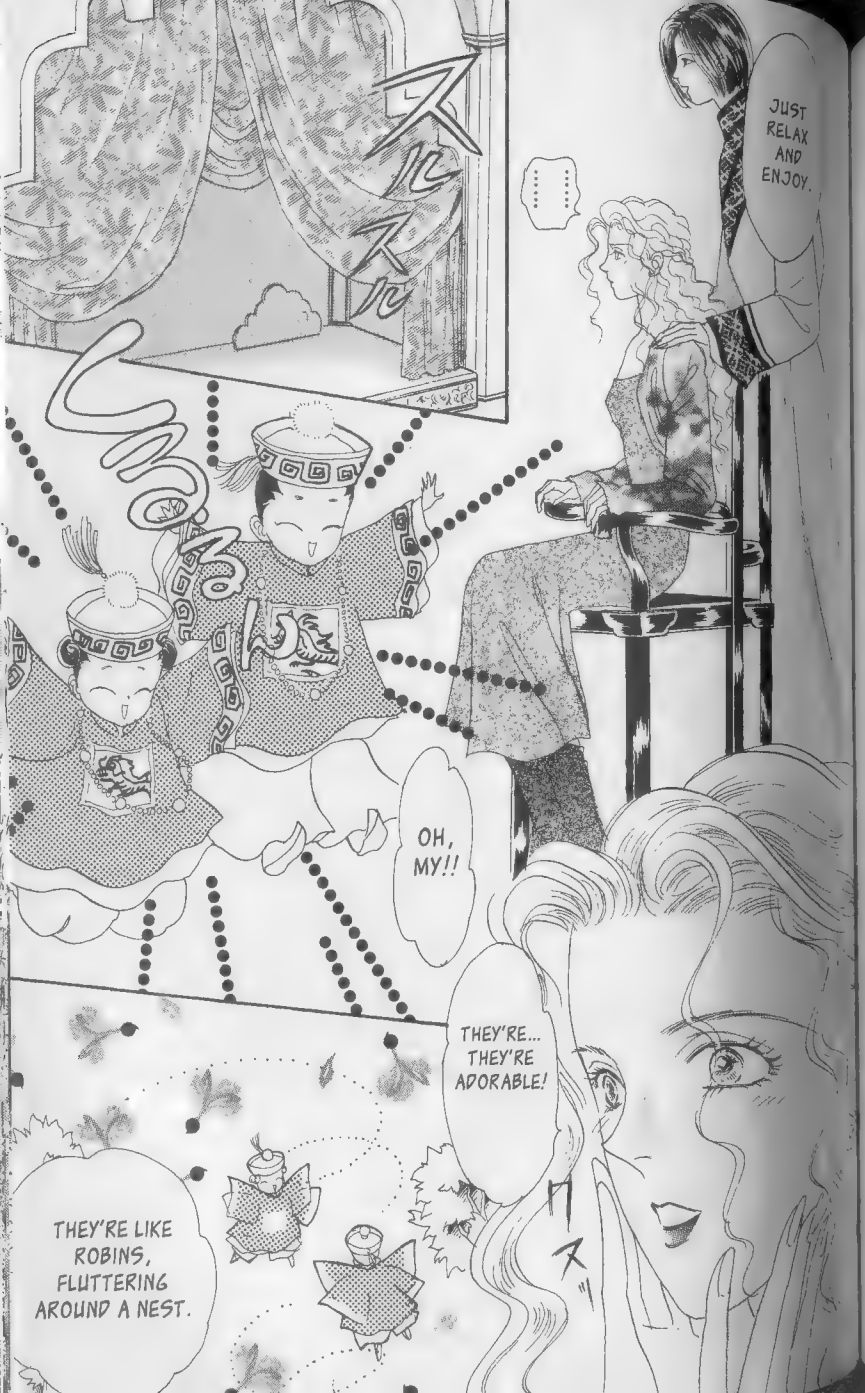
PLEASE FOLLOW ME.
AH, NOW THAT BIT OF UNPLEASANTNESS IS BEHIND US...
AAAAAGH!!!!

BUURP
WHOA! CHECK OUT THE BABE!
C'MON OVER HERE, BABE. LETSH HAVE US A LITTLE DRINK!

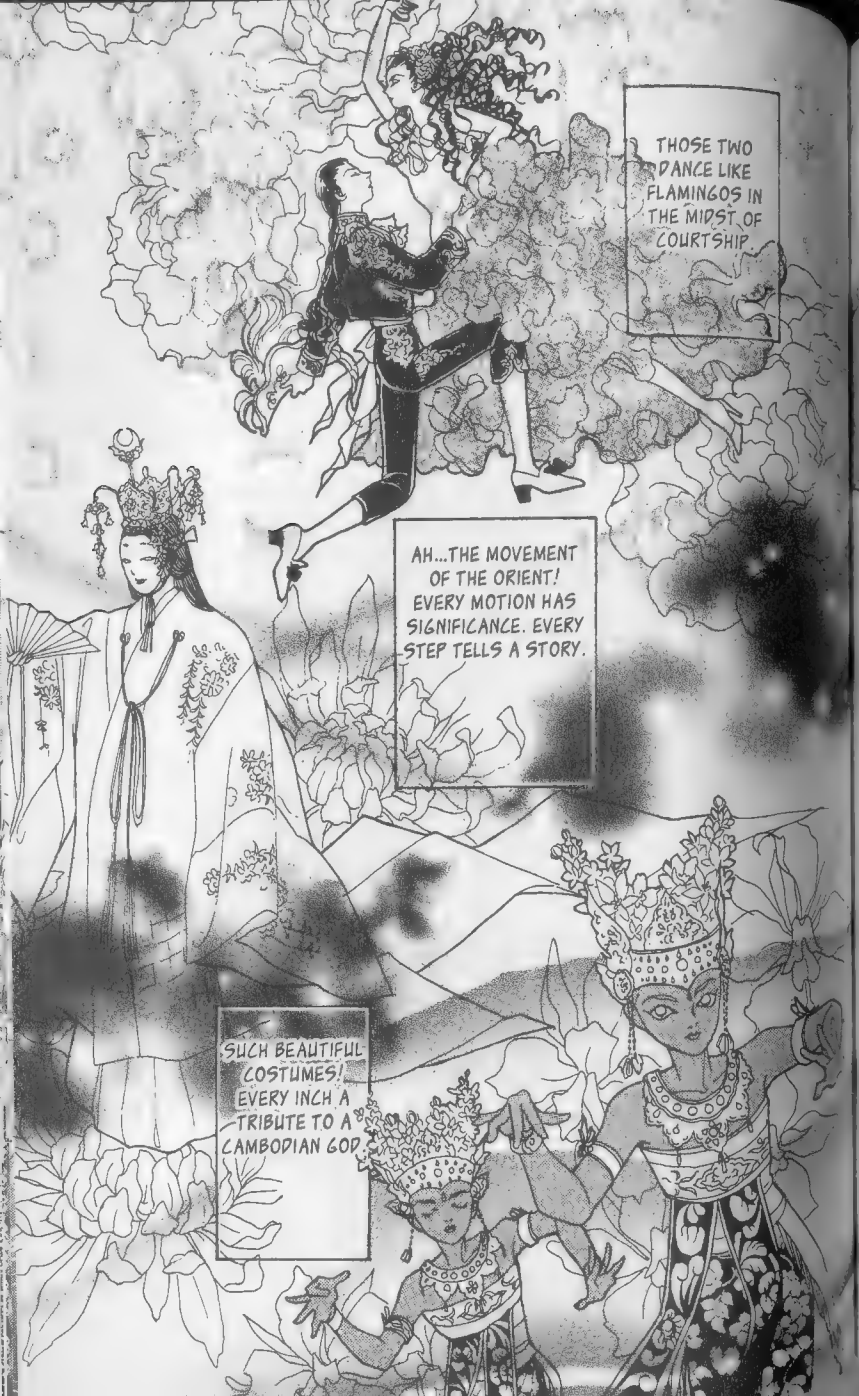
!!
YOOOO, COUNTSH!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN HIDIN' OUT?!

COUNT D...
COULD WE GO SEE THE BIRDS YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT?
OF COURSE... RIGHT THIS WAY.
PERHAPS WE CAN FIND YOU A WINGED COMPANION TO MAKE THIS LONG TOUR A BIT LESS LONELY.
YOU THINK?
NO.
IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
I'M JUST TIRED.
I'M EXHAUSTED, REALLY...
BUT AFTER A QUICK REST I'LL BE ABLE TO DANCE AGAIN.
THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL, WON'T IT?
MMM... IT DOES...
I FEEL... I FEEL LIGHTER THAN AIR... LIKE A GREAT WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF MY SHOULDERS.
AH...I CAN'T...
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M ON A STRICT DIET.
AND I JUST PICKED UP THE MOST DELICIOUS CAKE.
CAKE?!
AFTER ALL, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO WATCH A FAT GIRL JUMP AROUND IN A TUTU?
A GIRL IN MY LINE OF WORK HAS TO WATCH HER FIGURE.
YES! IT SMELLS WONDERFUL.
I'LL ADD SOME FLAVORING TO YOUR TEA, THEN.
IT'S INTENDED TO RELAX ONE'S MIND AND SPIRIT.
THAT YOU CAN HAVE, YES?

MY WORD...
PLEASE, COME IN.

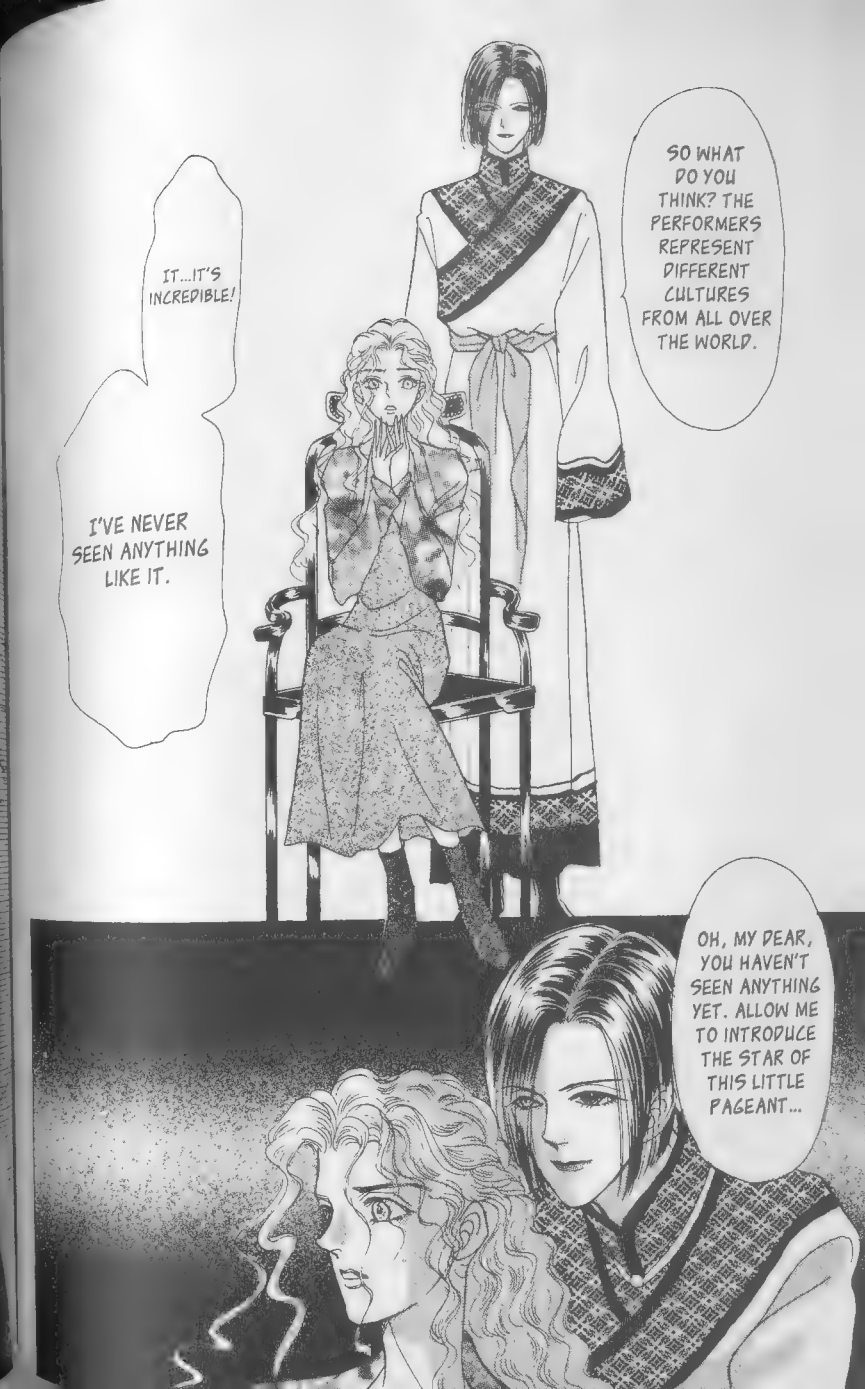

JUST RELAX AND ENJOY.
.....
OH, MY!!
THEY'RE... THEY'RE ADORABLE!
THEY'RE LIKE ROBINS, FLUTTERING AROUND A NEST.

HOW ARE YOU, D?
COUNT!
WHAT IS...? ARE WE AT...? IS THIS A MASQUERADE?!
BUT THIS... IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE SHOP LOOKED SO SMALL ON THE OUTSIDE.
WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S SHOW-TIME!
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD A GUEST, HASN'T IT?
NOW, NOW...
COUNT, I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, BUT I'M A PROFESSIONAL ...
SHOW?!
YOU DON'T FIND PETS ENTERTAINING?
ISN'T... ISN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A PET SHOP?


THOSE TWO DANCE LIKE FLAMINGOS IN THE MIDST OF COURTSHIP.
AH...THE MOVEMENT OF THE ORIENT! EVERY MOTION HAS SIGNIFICANCE. EVERY STEP TELLS A STORY.
SUCH BEAUTIFUL COSTUMES! EVERY INCH A TRIBUTE TO A CAMBODIAN GOD.

DANCERS... IN PINK?
WHAT PRECISION! NOT A SINGLE STEP OFF!
AND SUCH GRACE, SUCH BEAUTY, SUCH PASSION...

BEFORE MY VERY EYES, THE STAGE BECAME THE SHORE OF A LAKE, ENVELOPED BY DEEP FOREST.
A MOMENT OF NEARLY REVERENT SILENCE, BROKEN BY A SINGLE SWAN DESCENDING UPON THE LAKE.
UPON LANDING, SHE BEGAN TO DANCE, AND AT THAT MOMENT, IT WAS AS IF AN EVIL SPELL WAS WEAKENED.
THE SWAN TOOK THE FORM OF A MAIDEN, WHO PROCEEDED TO DANCE THE BALLET WITH A GRACE AND POISE NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY THE EYES OF MAN.


SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? THE PERFORMERS REPRESENT DIFFERENT CULTURES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
IT...IT'S INCREDIBLE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
OH, MY DEAR, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE STAR OF THIS LITTLE PAGEANT...

SO DID YOU ENJOY OUR LITTLE SHOW?
DID I ENJOY...?
THIS...
THIS IS...
IN MY WILDEST DREAMS I COULD NEVER COME CLOSE TO GRACING THE STAGE AS THEY DID.
PERFECTION. ABSOLUTE PERFECTION.
BEAUTY AND PRECISION BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN. AND IT'S ALL HIDDEN AWAY...IN A TINY LITTLE PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN.
I FEEL LIKE A NOVICE DANCER WHO HAS JUST SEEN HER FIRST PROFESSIONAL BALLET.

AT LAST, THE FIRST RAYS OF MORNING SUNLIGHT STRUCK THE LAKE...
...AND THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN ONCE AGAIN BECAME A SWAN...
...AND FLEW AWAY, WITHOUT A LOOK BACK.

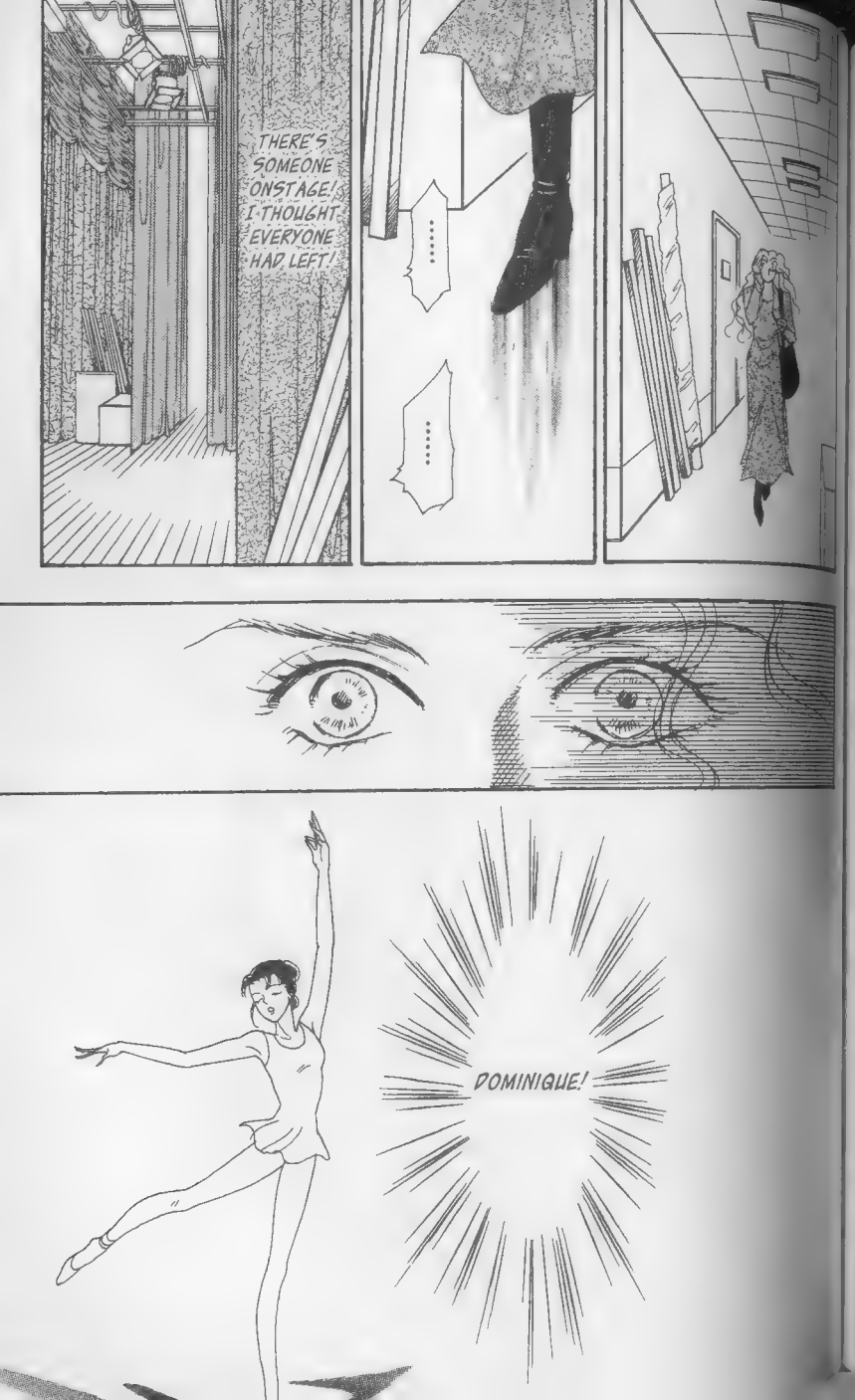
I INTENSIFIED MY TRAINING. ALL TO LIVE UP TO HIS EXPECTATIONS.
I IMPROVED IMMENSELY OVER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. MY PERFORMANCES BEGAN GARNERING ATTENTION.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED ME.
HE'S THE ONE WHO SAW MY TALENT. HE BELIEVED IN ME.
...BUT TO BE TALENTED IS TO BE EMPTY.
I STARTED TAKING BALLET LESSONS WHEN I WAS TWO YEARS OLD.
I HAD NO CHILDHOOD. NO FRIENDS. I HAD PRIVATE TUTORS. I NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL.
I LIVED ONLY FOR THE BALLET. IT WAS MY WORLD.
I MAY HAVE TALENT ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU ARE THE GREATEST DANCER OF OUR CENTURY, ARE YOU NOT? PEOPLE TRAVEL ACROSS THE GLOBE TO WATCH YOU PERFORM. AMATEURS STUDY YOUR EVERY MOVE.
BUT...
...THE PARTNERSHIP DIDN'T EXTEND BEYOND THE STAGE. IT WAS MY DANCING NICHOLAS LOVED...NOT ME.
HE WAS MY MUSE.
AND I CAME TO LOVE NICHOLAS MORE THAN ANY OTHER MAN
WE BECAME DANCE PARTNERS. PEOPLE RAVED ABOUT THE DANCES OF PELLATIER AND LA CROIX.
MY PRINCE...
NICHOLAS...
YET...
...EVEN WITH ALL OF THAT, I'D STILL BE NOWHERE WITHOUT NICHOLAS.

COUNT, I CAN'T CONTINUE.
AND I REALLY DON'T WANT YOUR PITY.
JEANNE ...
THE SHOW IS NOT YET FINISHED.
?!
I NEED TO GET BACK.
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
IT IS THE STAGE FOR THE FINAL NUMBER.

DOMINIQUE ...
AND NOW NICHOLAS HAS FOUND A NEW PRINCESS.
NICHOLAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN BRILLIANT AT SPOTTING TALENT. EVEN UNPOLISHED, A JEWEL IS A JEWEL. AND DOMINIQUE IS A DIAMOND.
THEY'RE BOTH AT THE GOVERNOR'S PARTY RIGHT NOW.
MY PLACE OF HONOR AMONG THE TROUPE...
MY LOVER...
DOMINIQUE HAS STOLEN THEM BOTH!

WHAT?!
COUNT, PLEASE, STOP THIS! THIS...THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
COUNT?!
THEIR SWORDS ARE REAL!!
AAAIIIGH!!
TWO MALE DANCERS, EXOTICALLY DRESSED...
A SWORD DANCE?!
AND WHAT SPEED!
SUCH LEAPS! IT'S AS IF THEY'RE TAKING FLIGHT!
SO AGGRESSIVE... IT'S AS IF THEY'RE--

IT IS FINISHED
WHAT?!
N-NO! I DON'T WANT IT!
A GIFT FOR YOU.
ACCEPT THE SWORD, JEANNE. WITH IT YOU CAN OBTAIN THAT WHICH YOU DESIRE.
WITH THIS SWORD, YOU CAN BECOME THE STARLET ONCE AGAIN. BOTH ON THE STAGE AND IN THE EYE OF YOUR LOVER.
IT'S THE WAY OF THEIR TRIBE. THE MEN PROVE THEIR BRAVERY...
...BY ENGAGING IN THE DANCE OF DEATH.
...UNTIL ONE OF THE TWO HAS DIED.
THEY WILL NOT STOP...
AGH...


THERE'S SOMEONE ONSTAGE! I THOUGHT EVERYONE HAD LEFT!
.....
.....
DOMINIQUE!

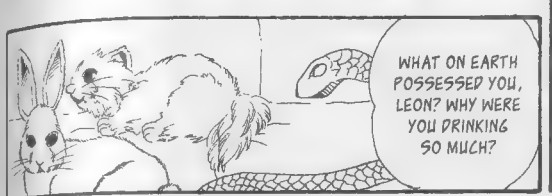
THE VERY BEST!
OOH... MY HEAD'S POUNDING...
I'M IN MY DRESSING ROOM!
HOW DID I GET BACK HERE?!
HUH?
BUT I...I WAS JUST IN CHINATOWN!
I WAS TALKING WITH COUNT D IN HIS PET SHOP!
THE STAGE AND DANCERS...WAS IT ALL JUST A DREAM?
WHY DON'T I REMEMBER LEAVING?
BUT I'M...

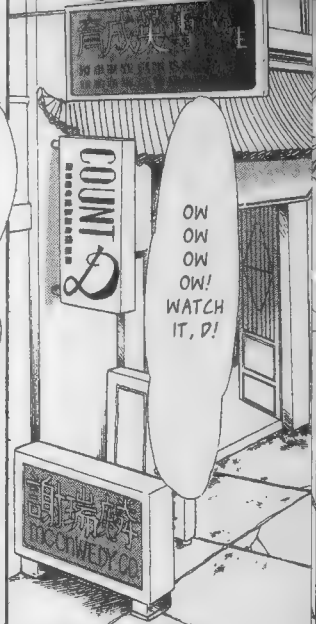
WITH THIS SWORD, YOU CAN OBTAIN THAT WHICH YOU DESIRE.
THAT GIRL HAS TALENT, AND IF LEFT TO DEVELOP UNDER NICHOLAS, SHE WILL BECOME A STAR.

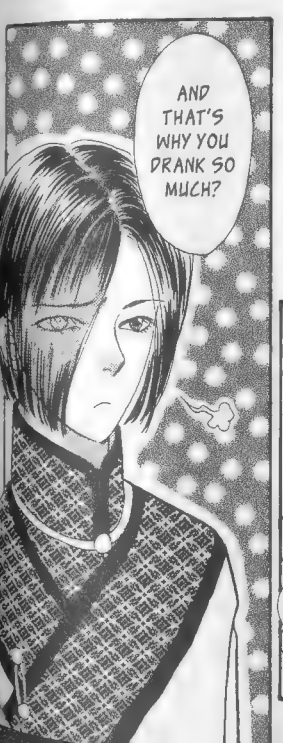
ONE MORE TIME, FROM THE BEGINNING!
LIFT YOUR HEAD HIGHER.
PUT YOUR SHOULDERS BACK.
LIKE THIS?
NICHOLAS?
DOMINIQUE!! YOU'RE DANCING ON THE BALL OF YOUR FOOT AGAIN. WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?
SORRY!

PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS, AND AS SUCH, THEY CAN NEVER BE FULLY TAMED.
OFTEN, PEOPLE REACT WITHOUT THINKING...
...AND LIVE A GOOD PORTION OF THEIR LIFE IN REGRET.
ALL PEOPLE HARBOR DANGEROUS TRAITS. GREED, ANGER, LUST...
...AND WORST OF ALL, JEALOUSY.

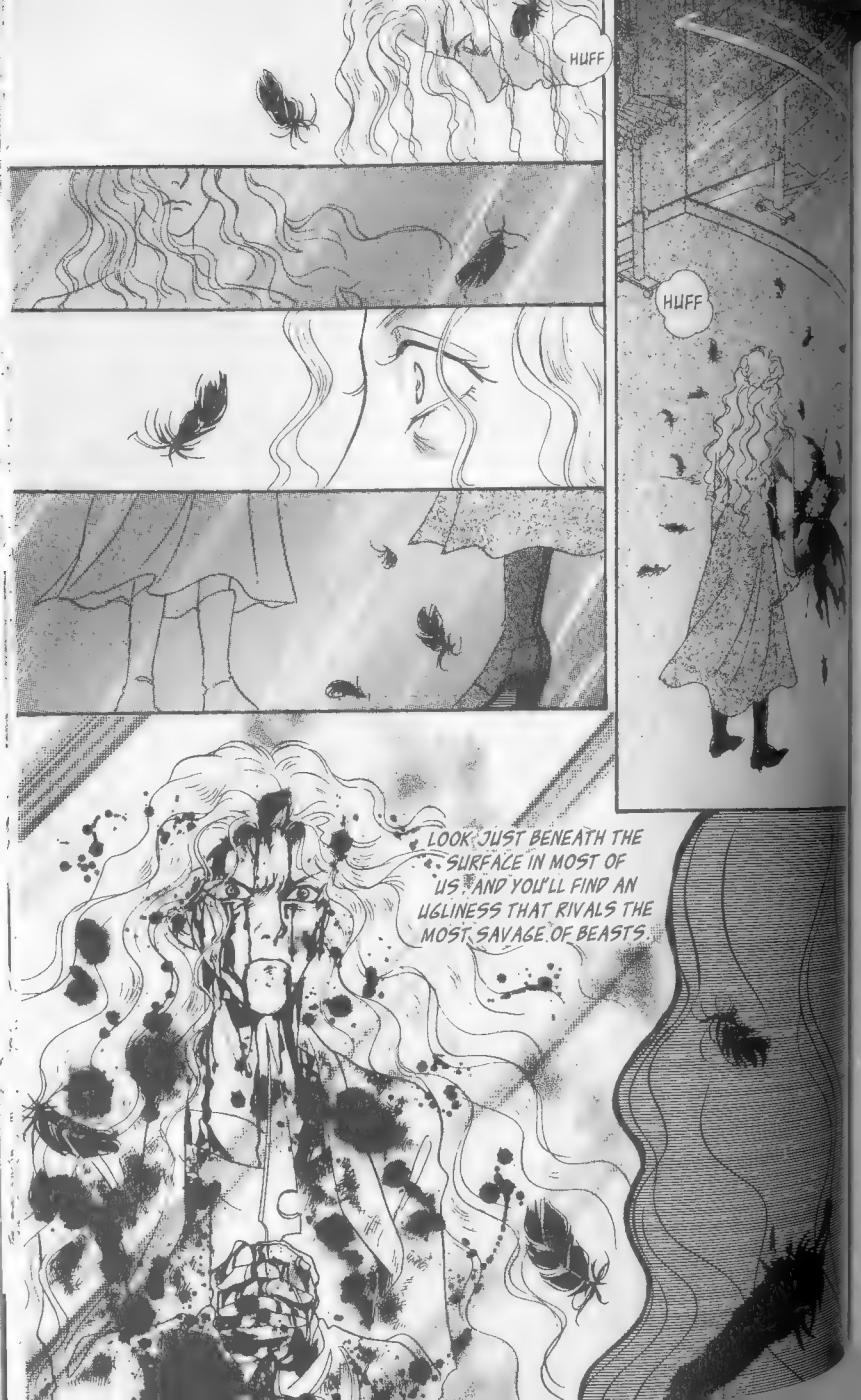
T-CHAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU EAT HIM?
I HATE WHEN MY FOOD'S ALREADY SAUCED.
NOW, NOW. YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF.
DRINK THIS. IT WILL HELP.


WHAT ON EARTH POSSESSED YOU, LEON? WHY WERE YOU DRINKING SO MUCH?


COUNT D
OW OW OW OW! WATCH IT, D!


AND THAT'S WHY YOU DRANK SO MUCH?

SAY NO MORE.
WHY? OH, WELL...
A BUDDY FROM HIGH SCHOOL GOT ENGAGED AND THREW A PARTY. THEN HE THREW AN AFTER-PARTY. THEN HE INVITED ME TO HIS PLACE FOR A NIGHTCAP.
THE GUY'S JUST SO DAMN LUCKY. HIS FIANCÉE'S GORGEOUS. GOT AN ASS FIRM ENOUGH TO STOP BULLETS.
AND AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, HER FAMILY IS LOADED.
THE SON OF A BITCH LUCKED OUT. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.


HUFF
HUFF
LOOK JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE IN MOST OF US AND YOU'LL FIND AN UGLINESS THAT RIVALS THE MOST SAVAGE OF BEASTS

ALL MY PRIDE...
ALL MY HAPPINESS...
YOUR TALENT...
YOUR YOUTH...
I HATE IT ALL!! I DESPISE EVERY SINGLE BREATH YOU TAKE!!!
YOU TOOK IT ALL AWAY. YOU WILL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE YOU!!

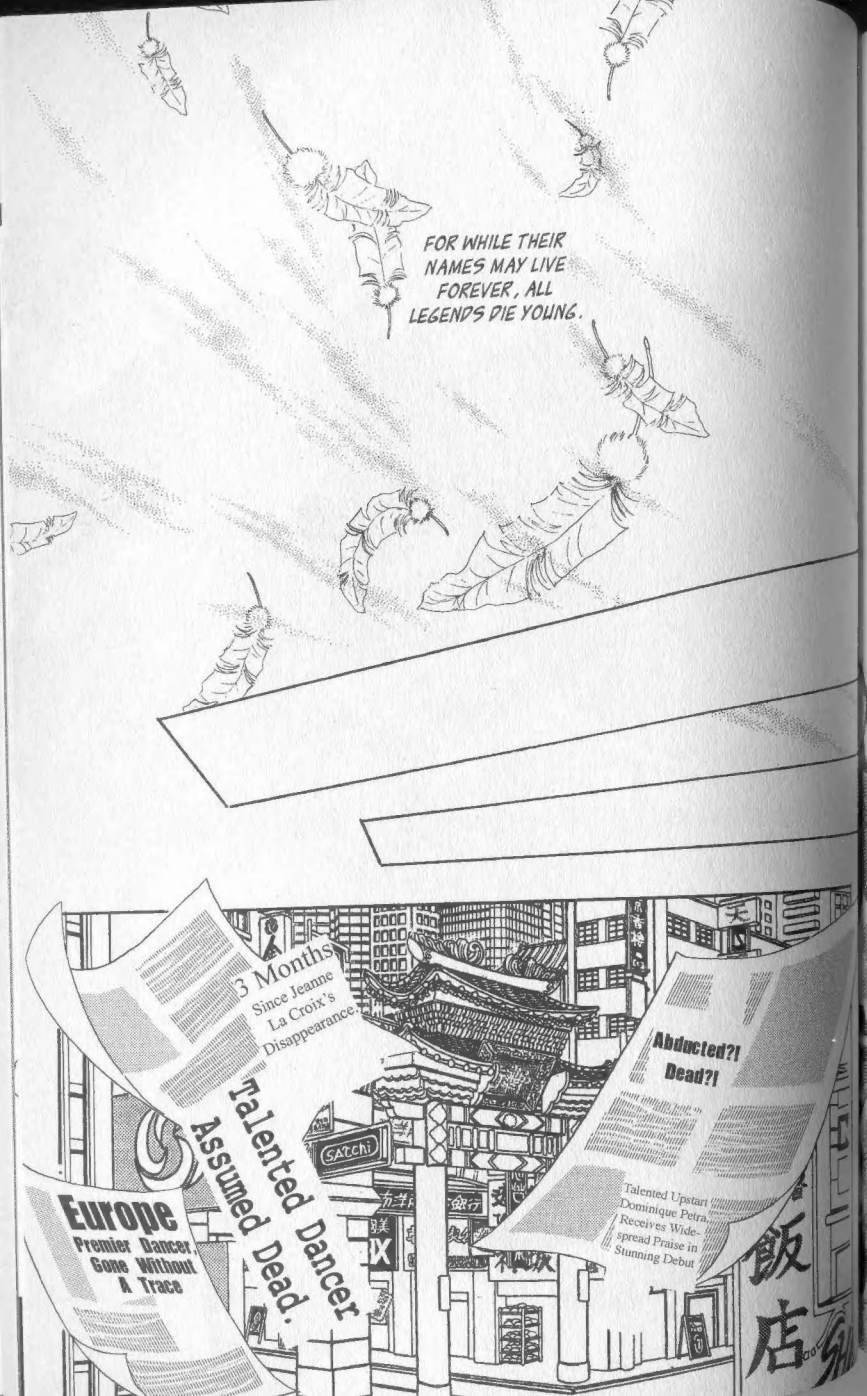
IF THERE TRULY IS A GOD OF DANCE...
LET ME ONCE AGAIN FIND PEACE WITHIN YOUR EMBRACE...
LET MY DANCE ALIGHT THE STAGE.
LET THIS AUDIENCE SPEAK MY NAME IN ADMIRATION.
AND LET ME CAPTURE THE HEART OF MY PRINCE, ONE LAST TIME...

#11
17
I DON'T GET IT, D. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
IN SWAN LAKE, IT'S STANDARD FOR A SINGLE BALLERINA TO DANCE THE ROLES OF BOTH THE WHITE SWAN, ODETTE, AND THE BLACK SWAN, ODILE. THEY'RE ESSENTIALLY OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SAME CHARACTER.
JEANNE'S DANCING THE ROLE OF ODILE. HOW LOVELY.
HOW UNUSUAL! THIS COMPANY'S NEVER AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS.
ODETTE MEETS THE PRINCE AT THE LAKE. HE FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER FROM THE MOMENT HE LAYS EYES ON HER.
UPON LEARNING THIS, THE EVIL KING'S DAUGHTER, ODILE, TURNS INTO ODETTE...
...AND SEDUCES THE PRINCE...
YES, THE WHITE SWAN IS SO INNOCENT...
WHILE THE BLACK ONE IS MANIPULATIVE AND EVIL. A TRUE VILLAIN.
FASCINATING HOW OPPOSITE ODILE IS FROM ODETTE.

HIS HEART CAPTIVATED BY THE DANCE, PRINCE SIEGFRIED INSTANTLY FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER...
...UNAWARE THAT THE DANCER BEFORE HIM IS NOT ODETTE, BUT THE EVIL ODILE.
ODILE'S SHINING MOMENT-THE 32 FOUETTES.
SHE'S SO PRECISE IN HER MOTION. AS IF SHE WAS BORN TO DANCE THIS ROLE.

I PROMISE YOU, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! SHE WAS HERE FOR HER ACT, THEN GONE!
DID SOMEONE ABDUCT HER?
YOU'RE SAYING THAT JEANNE LA CROIX JUST... DISAPPEARED?
THAT STORY'S CRAZIER THAN YOUR PLAY.
OH, JEANNE...
ザワザワ
MY DEAR DETECTIVE, I WAS WITH YOU THE WHOLE TIME, WASN'T I?
HOW COULD I BE GUILTY OF ANYTHING WITH YOU AS MY ALIBI?
UH...
WAIT A MINUTE, COUNT! THAT DANCER WAS AT YOUR SHOP YESTERDAY
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

MAGNIFICENT! SHE TRULY IS THE BEST!
BRAVO, JEANNE LA CROIX!
BUT THE BALLET ISN'T EVEN FINISHED YET!
THE AUDIENCE IS GIVING JEANNE A STANDING OVATION.
I'M GLAD I'M NOT IN DOMINIQUE'S SHOES. I WOULDN'T WANT TO FOLLOW THAT.
パチパチパチ
WE HAVE TO SETTLE DOWN THE AUDIENCE.
WHERE'S JEANNE?!
JEANNE?
JEANNE...?


FOR WHILE THEIR NAMES MAY LIVE FOREVER, ALL LEGENDS DIE YOUNG.
3 Months
Since Jeanne La Croix's Disappearance.
Talented Dancer Assumed Dead.
Europe
Premier Dancer Gone Without A Trace
Abducted?! Dead?!
Talented Upstart Dominique Petra Receives Widespread Praise in Stunning Debut

FOR THE HEART'S NATURE IS TO LONG FOR WHAT IT CAN NEVER HAVE.
AS THE PRINCE LEARNS HE CAN NEVER AGAIN SEE HIS BELOVED ODETTE, HE REALIZES HIS HEART WILL LONG FOR NO OTHER.
TO BE THE VERY BEST MEANS TO LEAVE THIS WORLD IN YOUR PRIME, LEAVING AUDIENCES TO REMEMBER ONLY YOUR TRIUMPHS.

PET CATALOG

No.5

Kirin

When most people hear the name "Kirin," they think of beer. However, the beer got its name from one of China's most respected beasts of legend.

The Kirin is one of China's sacred beasts. There are actually five of them. The four directional beasts are the Dragon (East), Tiger (West), Phoenix (South) and Genbu, a tortoise-like creature (North). The Kirin represents the center, and as such reflects the ideal balance of yin and yang, the five elements, and so on...it's a little hard to explain and even more difficult to understand...at least without having downed a few Kirins beforehand!

End of Episode 4

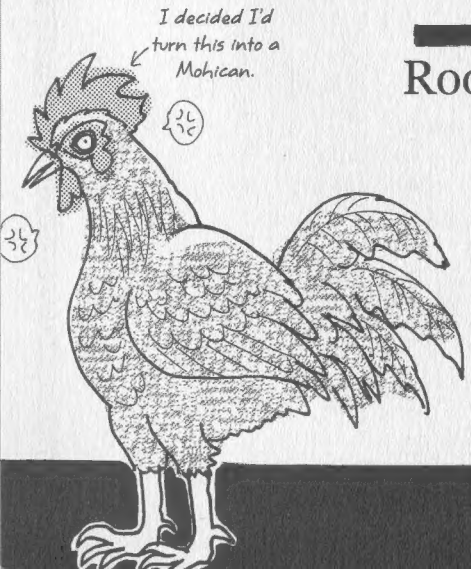
Maine Coon

A rather popular cat in recent years. "Maine Coon" was derived from the longer "Badger of the Maine River."

The Count isn't very good with scissors, is he?

Well, at least he tried...

Oh, and to answer Christopher's question... Millefeuille is a type of tea. To be more precise, it's a tea that is served as a dessert, and is usually only sold in high-class restaurants. It's very tasty.



Rooster 鶏

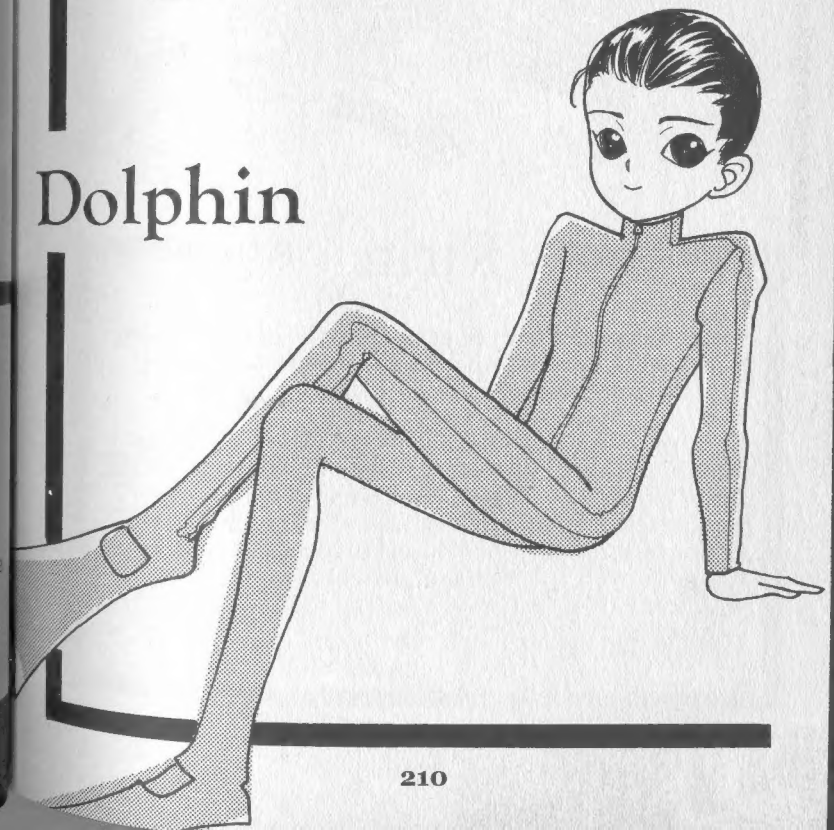
There are places in the world that still allow cock fighting. It's a bloody sport, yet remains popular underground. Breeders actually attach metal claws to the roosters' feet which allow them to better attack their opponents.

Mynah Bird

For those who didn't pick up on it, Madam Sultana was a Minah Bird.
They talk to people, but they don't understand the meaning of the words. That's probably a good thing in my case!

Philippe is a French play on the word "flip." And of course we all know the television show "Flipper." It seemed like a clever way of paying tribute.

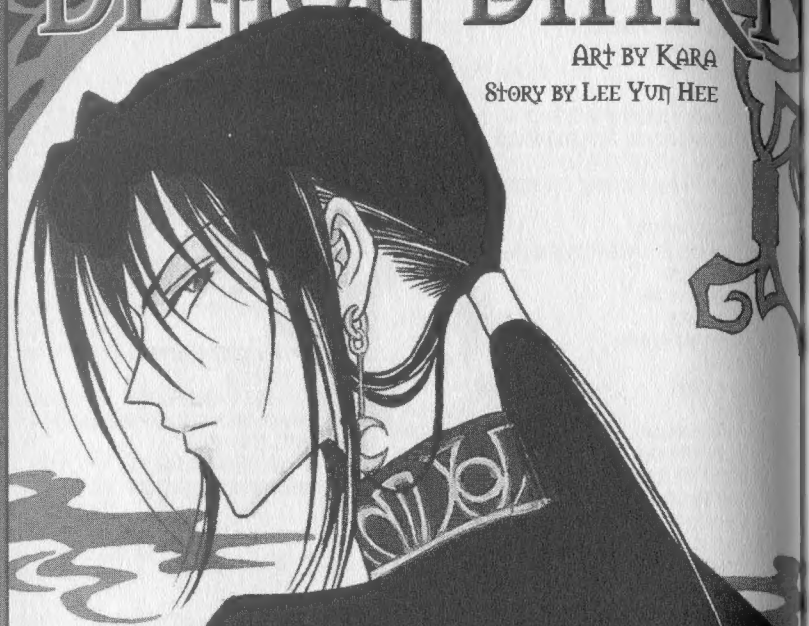
Dolphin



TOKYOPOP

DEMON DIARY

ART BY KARA
STORY BY LEE YUN HEE



CAN HARMONY
BE REACHED
BETWEEN
GODS & DEMONS?

AVAILABLE NOW AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOK AND COMIC STORES!

T
TEEN
AGE 13+

Next issue...

DISCOVERY:
When Count D and Detective Orcot are abducted by Peruvian terrorists, they find themselves bound, gagged and held at gunpoint deep in the jungles of South America. With one chance at survival, Leon will have to put his faith in Count D...and a mysterious jaguar named Lisa. Ideology, history, and a legendary lost treasure all come together in this exciting tale of suspense.

DECEMBER:
'Twas the night before Christmas, and under the house a creature was stirring, far worse than a mouse. Young Chris has the blues, he's full of despair, for his family is fighting, and the count doesn't care. So who should he meet on this Christmas so drear, but a three-headed dragon with a temper severe. And when this dragon gets angry on behalf of his friend, the entire city's at risk—will this be the end?

DISTANCE:
The youngest daughter in a family of musicians, Catherine would be all set to take her place behind the piano keys in one of the world's best orchestras, if only she showed the least bit of talent. However, when a new pet seems to inspire Catherine and improve her skill at the ivories, her family takes notice. But will her music bring forth laughter...or tears?

Also, as an added bonus, this volume also contains a "Flowers and the Detective" side story!

When Count D receives a parcel from his grandfather, the suspicious Orcot is disappointed to discover that the most dangerous part of this package is a Japanese kimono. However, this robe has a surprisingly violent story to tell...